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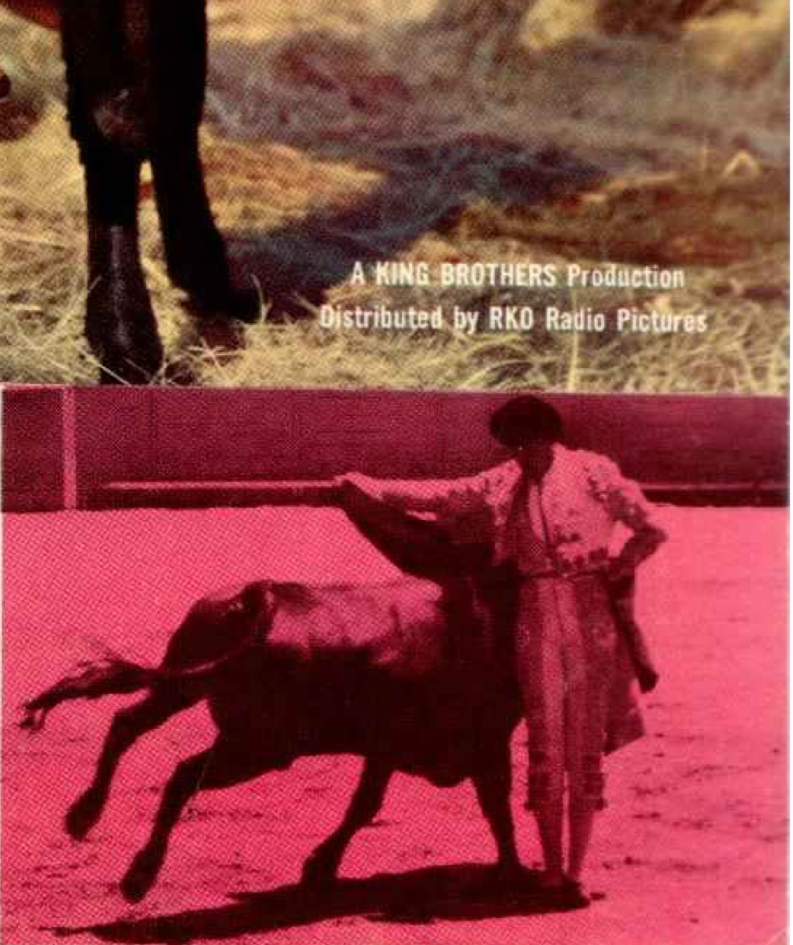
NO. 773

THE BRAVE ONE

A KING BROTHERS Production
Distributed by RKO Radio Pictures



Leonardo cuddles a new pet.

Together, he and Gitano . . .

. . . learn love's meaning.

But brave Gitano must . . .

. . . enter the bull ring,

where only a miracle . . .

. . . can save him!

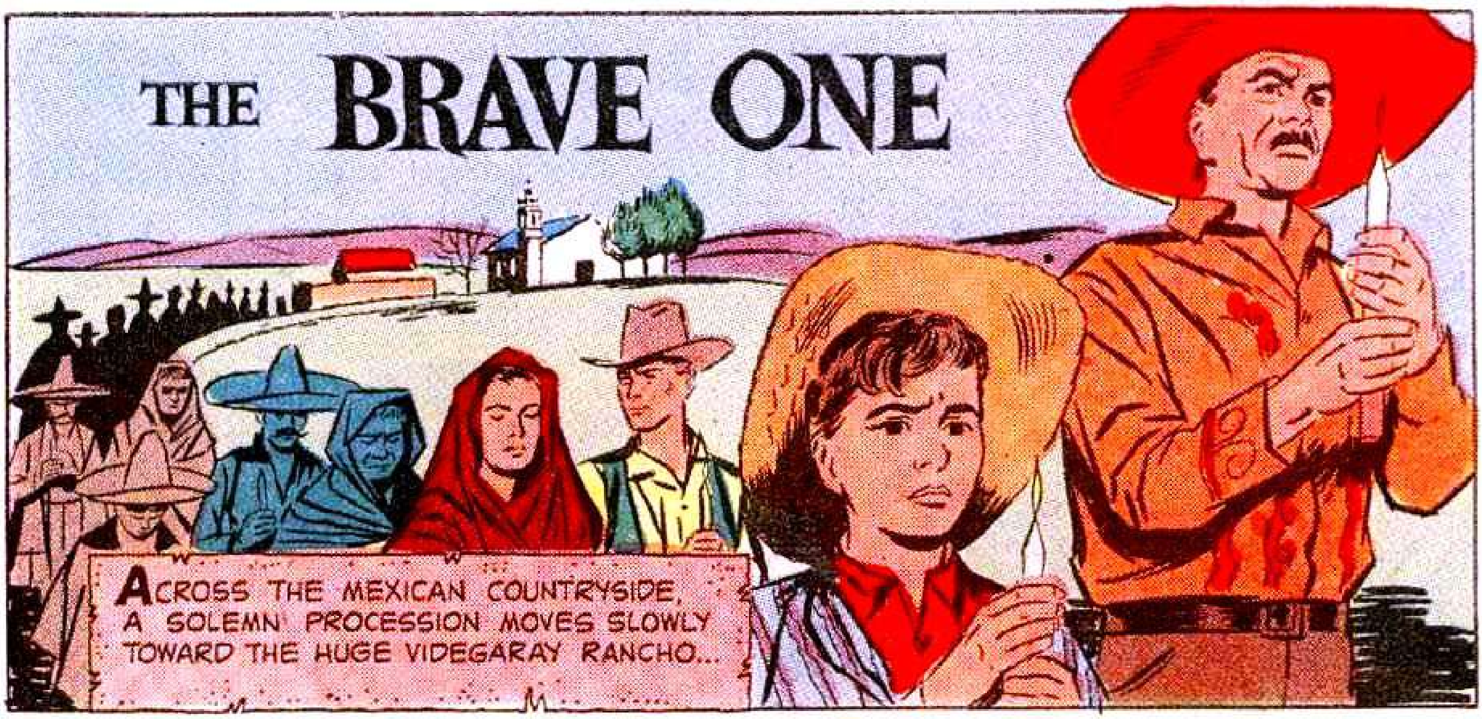
THE KING BROTHERS
present

THE BRAVE ONE

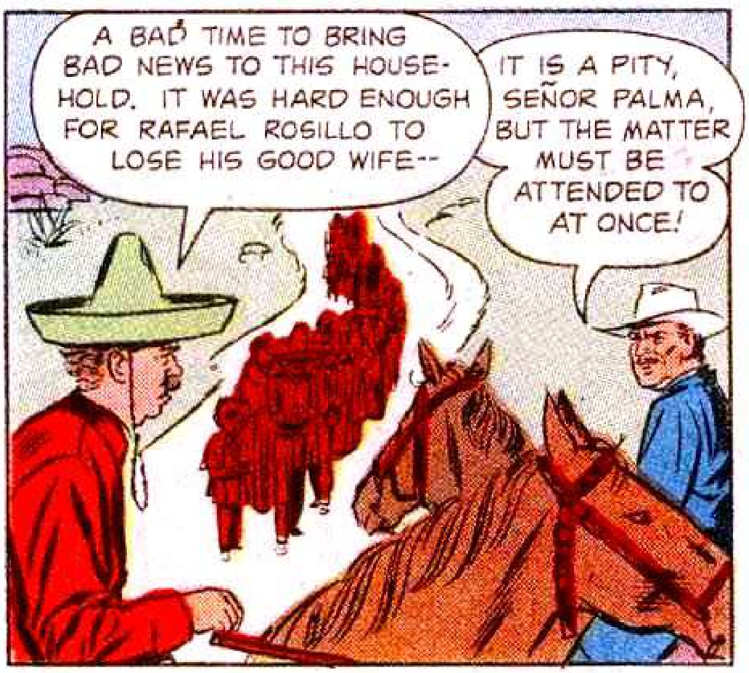
introducing
MICHEL RAY as LEONARDO
filmed in CinemaScope
color by **TECHNICOLOR**
screen play by HARRY FRANKLIN
and MERRILL G. WHITE directed by IRVING RAPPER
produced by MAURICE KING and FRANK KING
Distributed by RKO Radio Pictures

THE BRAVE ONE, No. 773. Published by Dell Publishing Co., Inc., 261 Fifth Ave., New York 16, N. Y.; George T. Delacorte, Jr., President; Helen Meyer, Vice-President; Albert P. Delacorte, Vice-President. © 1957, by RKO Radio Pictures. All rights reserved throughout the world. Authorized edition. Printed in U.S.A. Designed and produced by Western Printing & Lithographing Co.

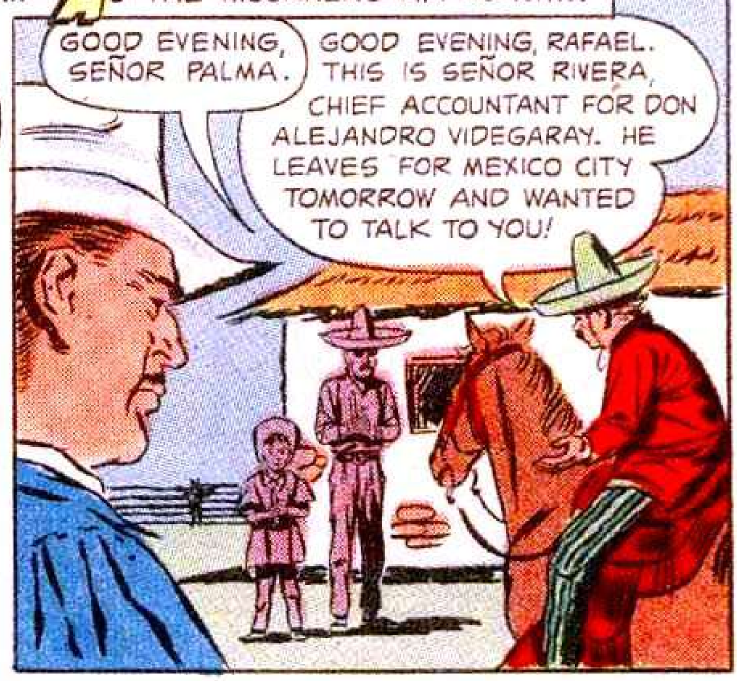
THE BRAVE ONE

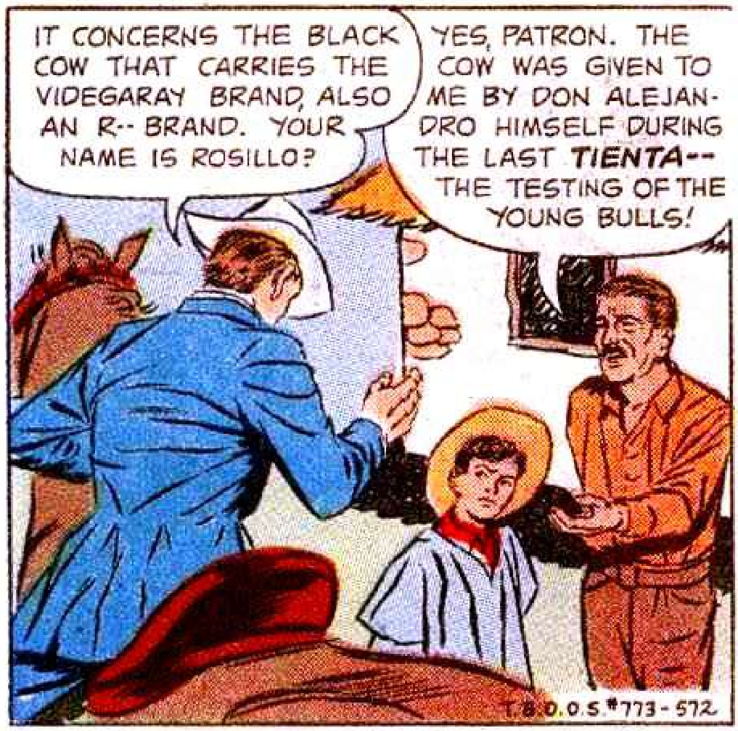

ACROSS THE MEXICAN COUNTRYSIDE, A SOLEMN PROCESSION MOVES SLOWLY TOWARD THE HUGE VIDEGARAY RANCHO...

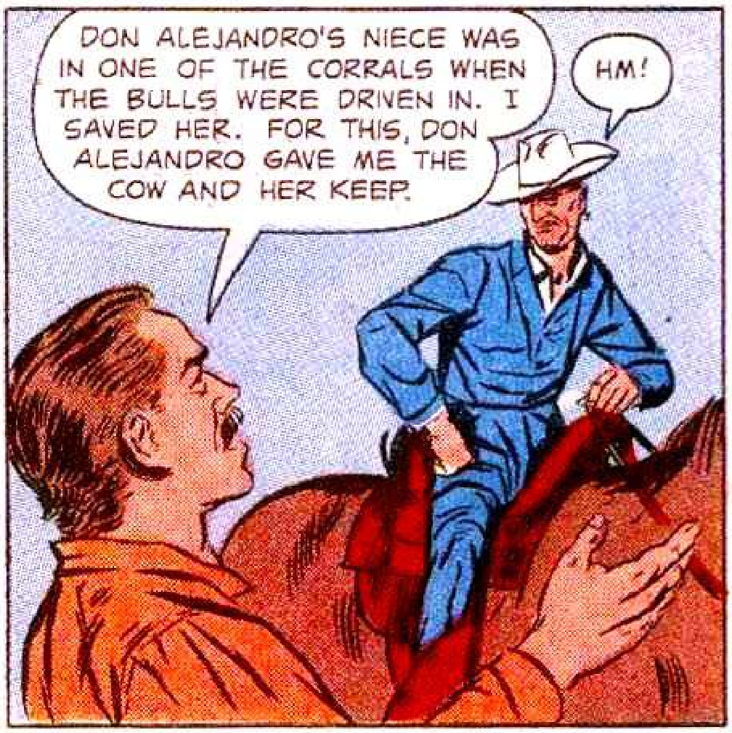
...AND STOPS BEFORE THE HUTS OF THE VAQUEROS...

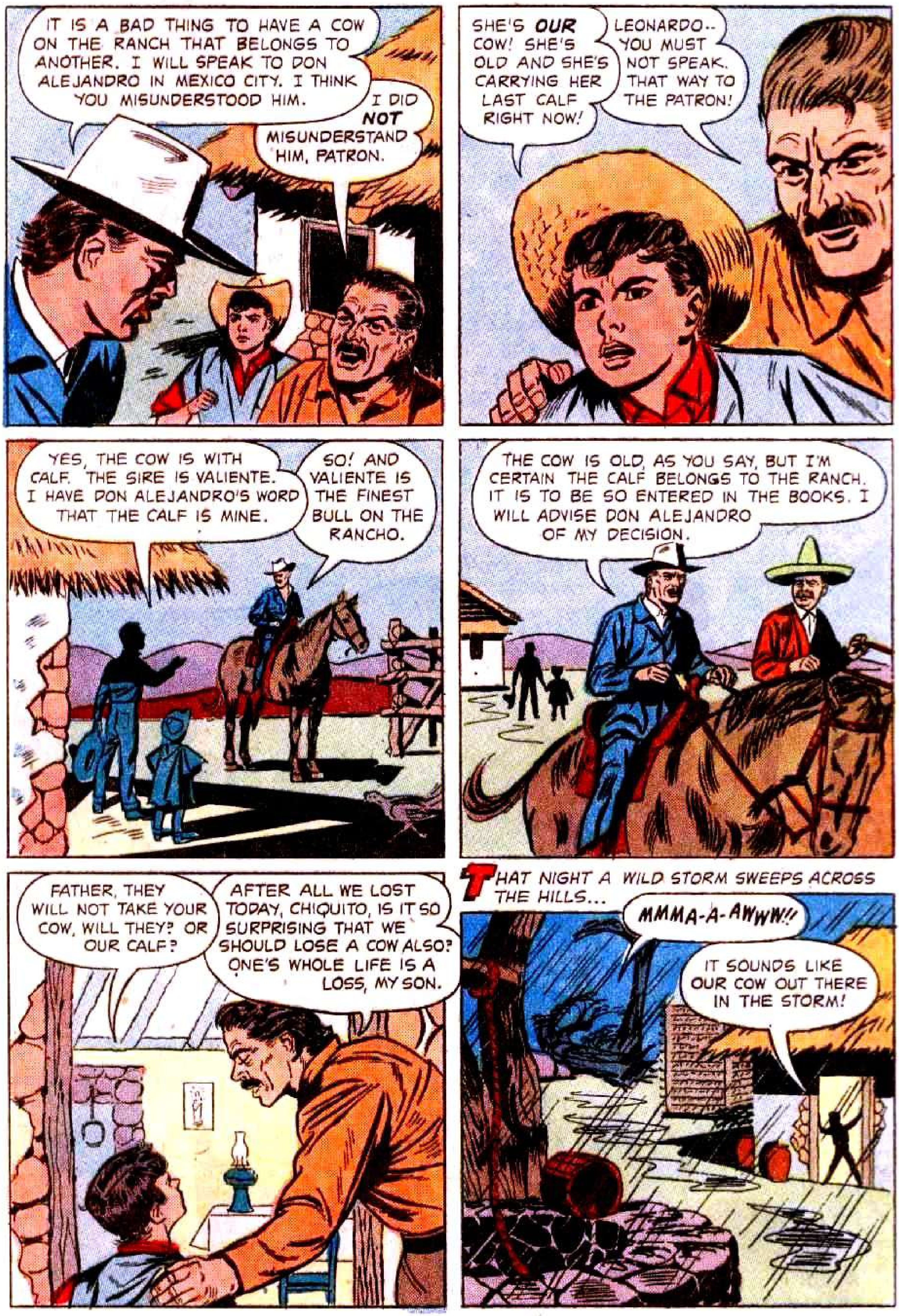

A BAD TIME TO BRING BAD NEWS TO THIS HOUSEHOLD. IT WAS HARD ENOUGH FOR RAFAEL ROSILLO TO LOSE HIS GOOD WIFE--
IT IS A PITY, SEÑOR PALMA, BUT THE MATTER MUST BE ATTENDED TO AT ONCE!

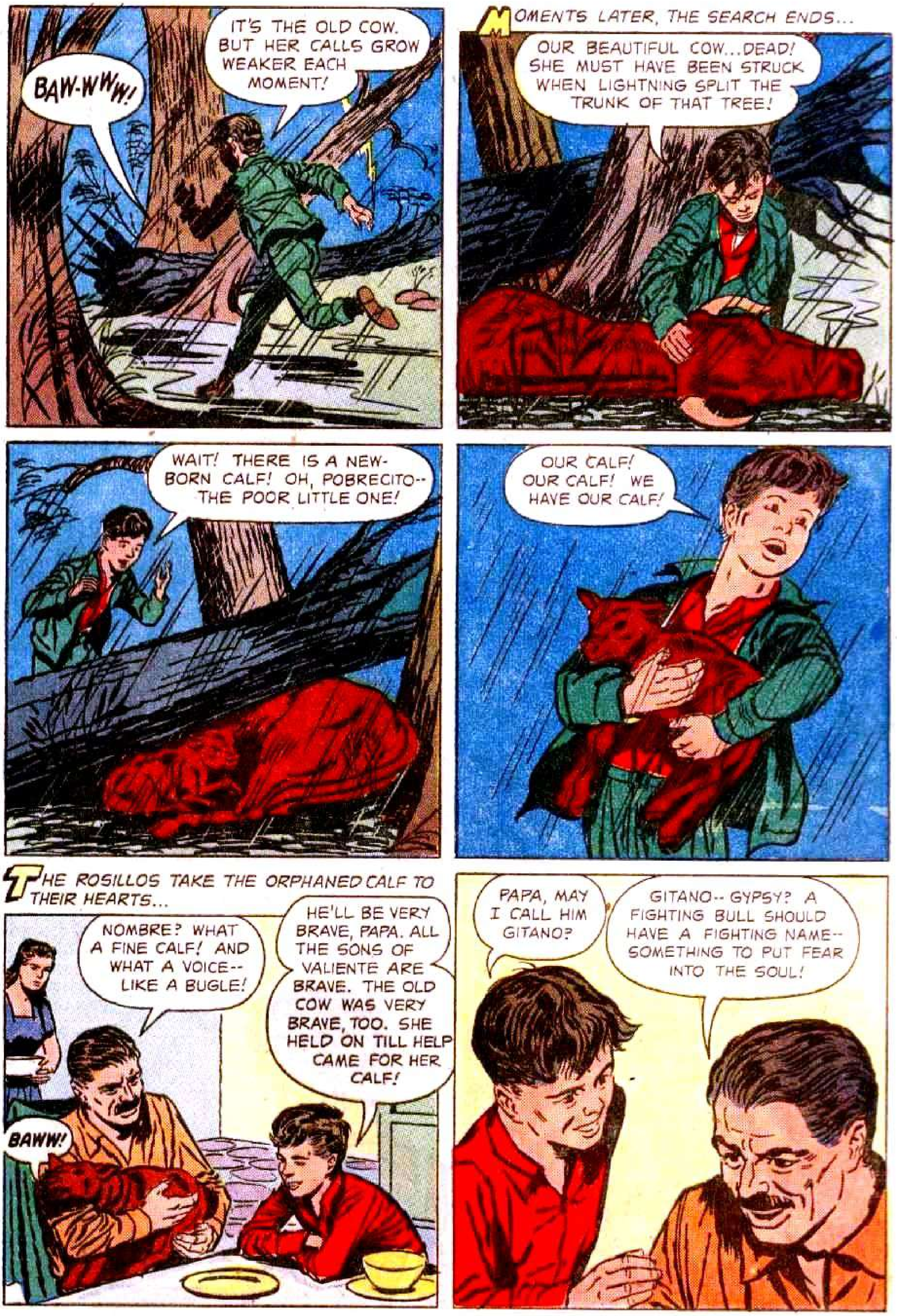
AS THE MOURNERS APPROACH...

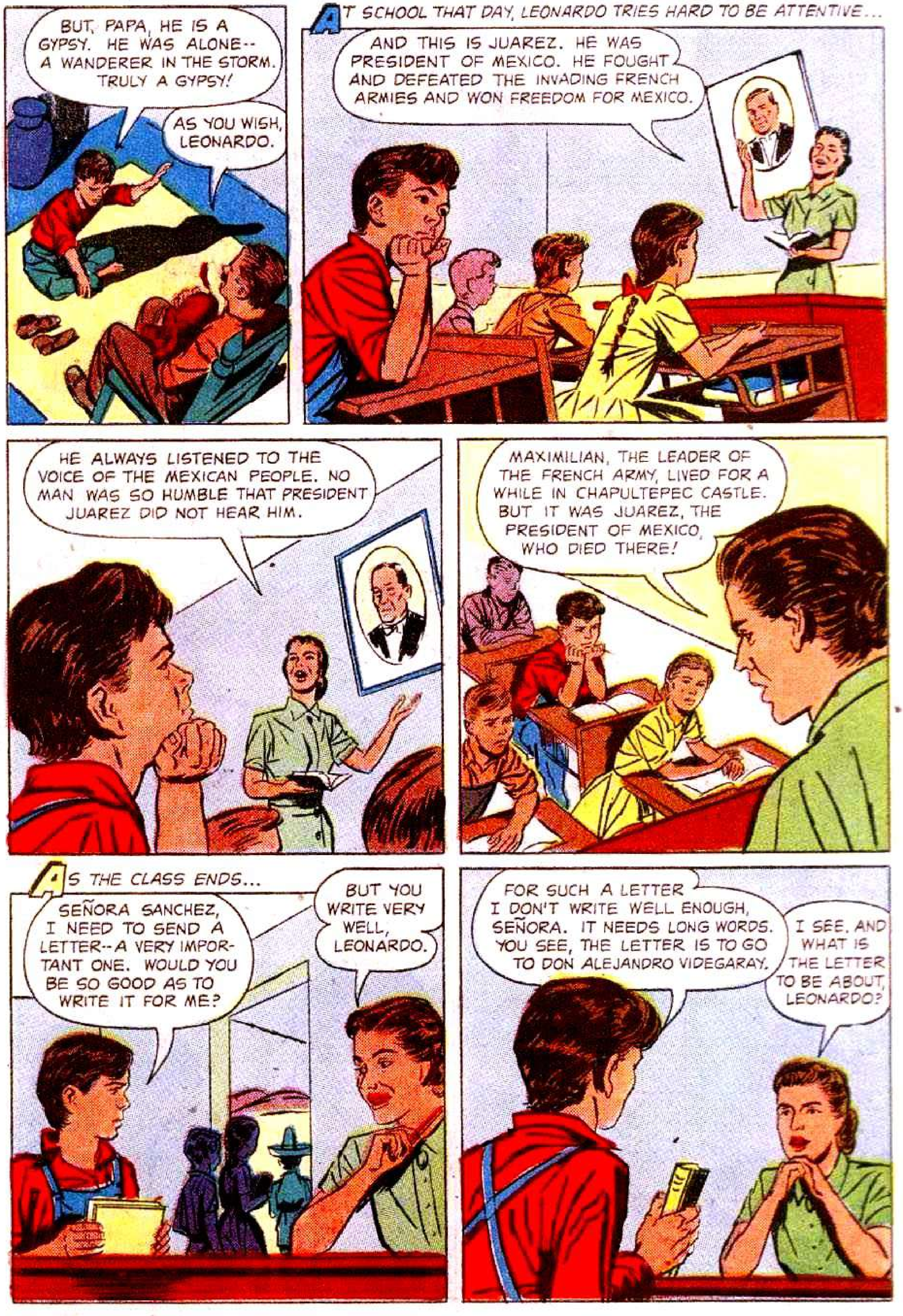

GOOD EVENING, SEÑOR PALMA.
GOOD EVENING, RAFAEL. THIS IS SEÑOR RIVERA, CHIEF ACCOUNTANT FOR DON ALEJANDRO VIDEGARAY. HE LEAVES FOR MEXICO CITY TOMORROW AND WANTED TO TALK TO YOU!

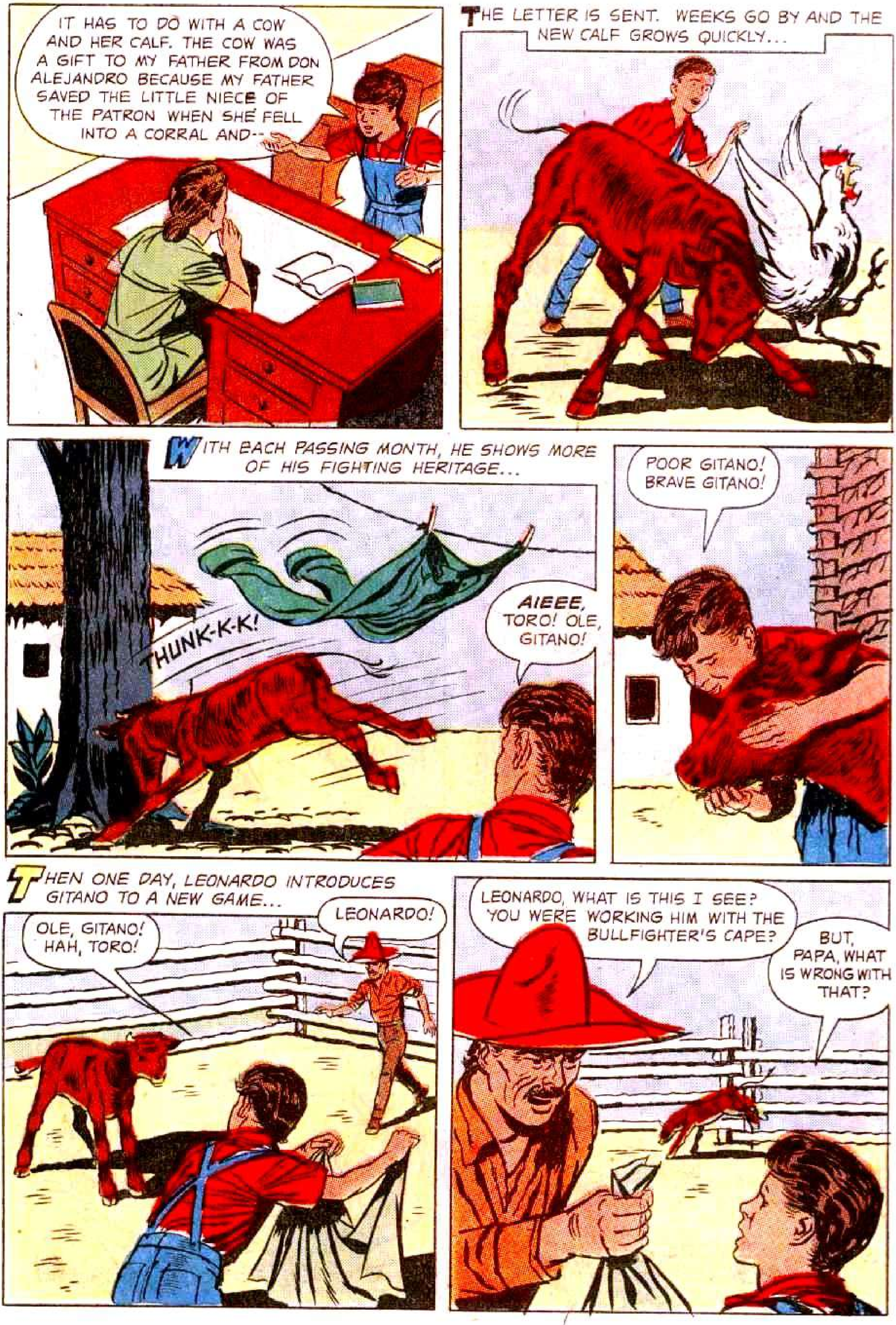

IT CONCERNS THE BLACK COW THAT CARRIES THE VIDEGARAY BRAND, ALSO AN R-- BRAND. YOUR NAME IS ROSILLO?
YES, PATRON. THE COW WAS GIVEN TO ME BY DON ALEJANDRO HIMSELF DURING THE LAST TIENTA-- THE TESTING OF THE YOUNG BULLS!
T.B.O.O.S.#773-572

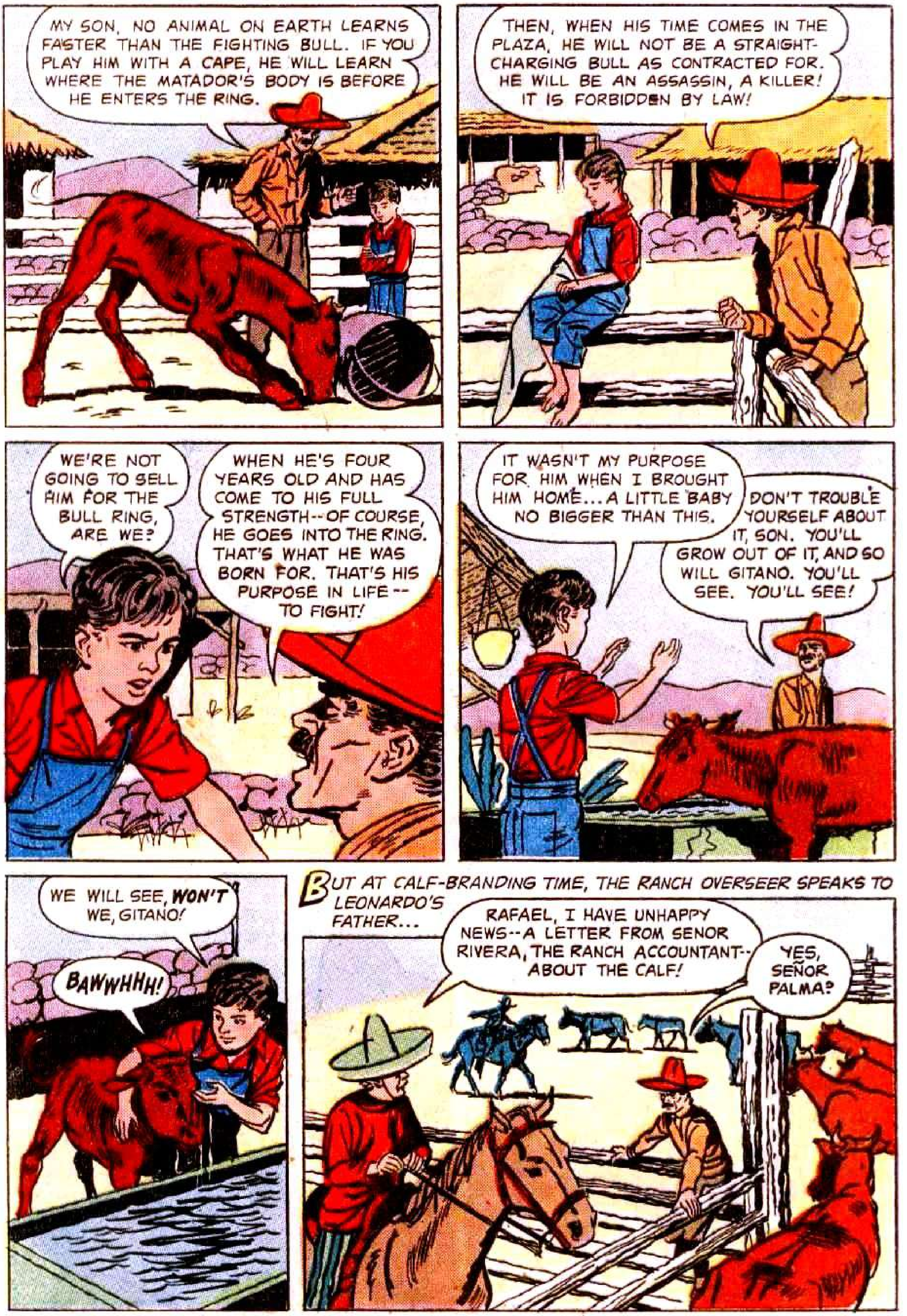

DON ALEJANDRO'S NIECE WAS IN ONE OF THE CORRALS WHEN THE BULLS WERE DRIVEN IN. I SAVED HER. FOR THIS, DON ALEJANDRO GAVE ME THE COW AND HER KEEP.
HM!

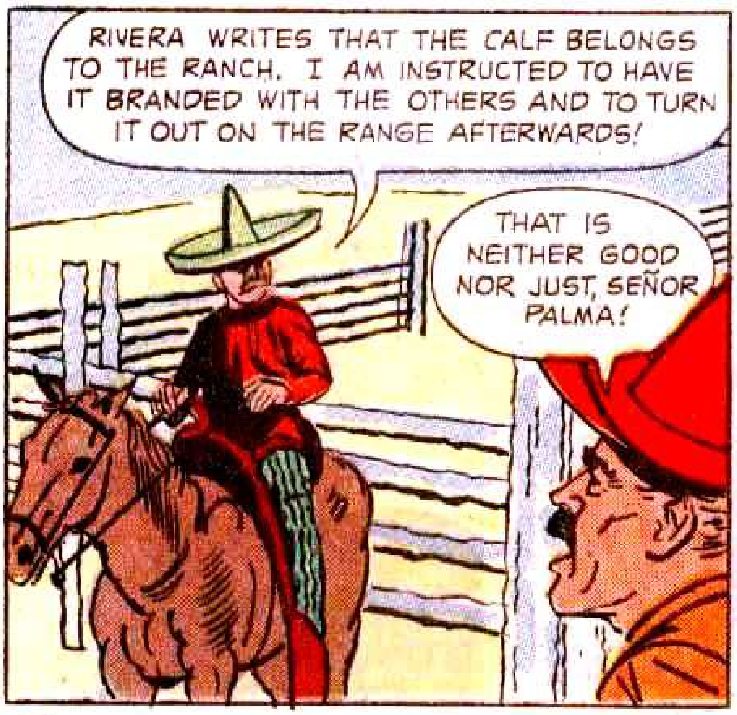

IT IS A BAD THING TO HAVE A COW ON THE RANCH THAT BELONGS TO ANOTHER. I WILL SPEAK TO DON ALEJANDRO IN MEXICO CITY. I THINK YOU MISUNDERSTOOD HIM.
I DID **NOT** MISUNDERSTAND HIM, PATRON.
SHE'S **OUR** COW! SHE'S OLD AND SHE'S CARRYING HER LAST CALF RIGHT NOW!
LEONARDO-- YOU MUST NOT SPEAK. THAT WAY TO THE PATRON!
YES, THE COW IS WITH CALF. THE SIRE IS VALIENTE. I HAVE DON ALEJANDRO'S WORD THAT THE CALF IS MINE.
SO! AND VALIENTE IS THE FINEST BULL ON THE RANCHO.
THE COW IS OLD, AS YOU SAY, BUT I'M CERTAIN THE CALF BELONGS TO THE RANCH. IT IS TO BE SO ENTERED IN THE BOOKS. I WILL ADVISE DON ALEJANDRO OF MY DECISION.
FATHER, THEY WILL NOT TAKE YOUR COW, WILL THEY? OR OUR CALF?
AFTER ALL WE LOST TODAY, CHIQUITO, IS IT SO SURPRISING THAT WE SHOULD LOSE A COW ALSO? ONE'S WHOLE LIFE IS A LOSS, MY SON.
THAT NIGHT A WILD STORM SWEEPS ACROSS THE HILLS...
MMMA-A-AWWW!!
IT SOUNDS LIKE OUR COW OUT THERE IN THE STORM!

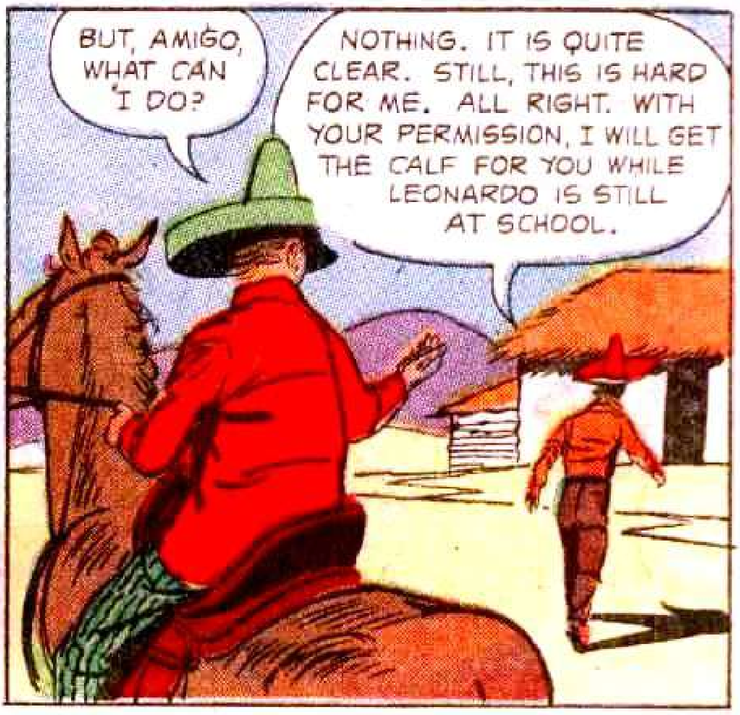

IT'S THE OLD COW. BUT HER CALLS GROW WEAKER EACH MOMENT!
BAW-WWW!
MOMENTS LATER, THE SEARCH ENDS...
OUR BEAUTIFUL COW...DEAD! SHE MUST HAVE BEEN STRUCK WHEN LIGHTNING SPLIT THE TRUNK OF THAT TREE!
WAIT! THERE IS A NEW-BORN CALF! OH, POBRECITO-- THE POOR LITTLE ONE!
OUR CALF! OUR CALF! WE HAVE OUR CALF!
THE ROSILLOS TAKE THE ORPHANED CALF TO THEIR HEARTS...
NOMBRE? WHAT A FINE CALF! AND WHAT A VOICE-- LIKE A BUGLE!
HE'LL BE VERY BRAVE, PAPA. ALL THE SONS OF VALIENTE ARE BRAVE. THE OLD COW WAS VERY BRAVE, TOO. SHE HELD ON TILL HELP CAME FOR HER CALF!
BAWW!
PAPA, MAY I CALL HIM GITANO?
GITANO-- GYPSY? A FIGHTING BULL SHOULD HAVE A FIGHTING NAME-- SOMETHING TO PUT FEAR INTO THE SOUL!


BUT, PAPA, HE IS A GYPSY. HE WAS ALONE-- A WANDERER IN THE STORM. TRULY A GYPSY!
AS YOU WISH, LEONARDO.
AT SCHOOL THAT DAY, LEONARDO TRIES HARD TO BE ATTENTIVE...
AND THIS IS JUAREZ. HE WAS PRESIDENT OF MEXICO. HE FOUGHT AND DEFEATED THE INVADING FRENCH ARMIES AND WON FREEDOM FOR MEXICO.
HE ALWAYS LISTENED TO THE VOICE OF THE MEXICAN PEOPLE. NO MAN WAS SO HUMBLE THAT PRESIDENT JUAREZ DID NOT HEAR HIM.
MAXIMILIAN, THE LEADER OF THE FRENCH ARMY, LIVED FOR A WHILE IN CHAPULTEPEC CASTLE. BUT IT WAS JUAREZ, THE PRESIDENT OF MEXICO, WHO DIED THERE!
AS THE CLASS ENDS...
SEÑORA SANCHEZ, I NEED TO SEND A LETTER-- A VERY IMPORTANT ONE. WOULD YOU BE SO GOOD AS TO WRITE IT FOR ME?
BUT YOU WRITE VERY WELL, LEONARDO.
FOR SUCH A LETTER I DON'T WRITE WELL ENOUGH, SEÑORA. IT NEEDS LONG WORDS. YOU SEE, THE LETTER IS TO GO TO DON ALEJANDRO VIDEGARAY.
I SEE. AND WHAT IS THE LETTER TO BE ABOUT, LEONARDO?

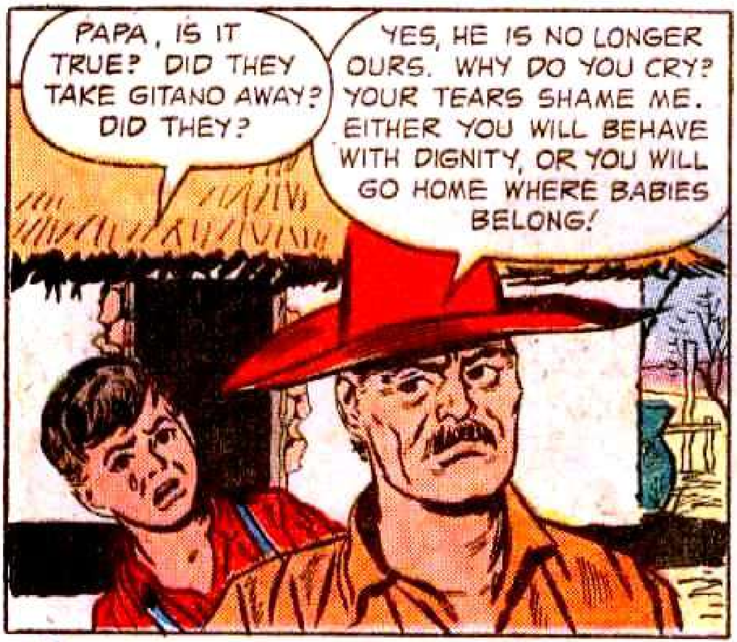

IT HAS TO DO WITH A COW AND HER CALF. THE COW WAS A GIFT TO MY FATHER FROM DON ALEJANDRO BECAUSE MY FATHER SAVED THE LITTLE NIECE OF THE PATRON WHEN SHE FELL INTO A CORRAL AND--
THE LETTER IS SENT. WEEKS GO BY AND THE NEW CALF GROWS QUICKLY...
WITH EACH PASSING MONTH, HE SHOWS MORE OF HIS FIGHTING HERITAGE...
THUNK-K-K!
AIEEE, TORO! OLE, GITANO!
POOR GITANO! BRAVE GITANO!
THEN ONE DAY, LEONARDO INTRODUCES GITANO TO A NEW GAME...
OLE, GITANO! HAH, TORO!
LEONARDO!
LEONARDO, WHAT IS THIS I SEE? YOU WERE WORKING HIM WITH THE BULLFIGHTER'S CAPE?
BUT, PAPA, WHAT IS WRONG WITH THAT?

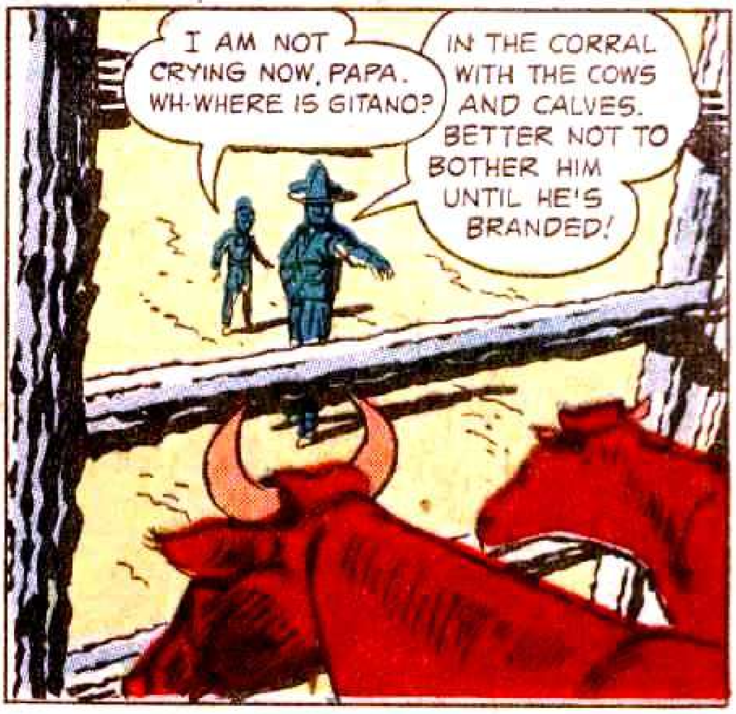

MY SON, NO ANIMAL ON EARTH LEARNS FASTER THAN THE FIGHTING BULL. IF YOU PLAY HIM WITH A CAPE, HE WILL LEARN WHERE THE MATADOR'S BODY IS BEFORE HE ENTERS THE RING.
THEN, WHEN HIS TIME COMES IN THE PLAZA, HE WILL NOT BE A STRAIGHT-CHARGING BULL AS CONTRACTED FOR. HE WILL BE AN ASSASSIN, A KILLER! IT IS FORBIDDEN BY LAW!
WE'RE NOT GOING TO SELL HIM FOR THE BULL RING, ARE WE?
WHEN HE'S FOUR YEARS OLD AND HAS COME TO HIS FULL STRENGTH--OF COURSE, HE GOES INTO THE RING. THAT'S WHAT HE WAS BORN FOR. THAT'S HIS PURPOSE IN LIFE--TO FIGHT!
IT WASN'T MY PURPOSE FOR HIM WHEN I BROUGHT HIM HOME... A LITTLE BABY NO BIGGER THAN THIS.
DON'T TROUBLE YOURSELF ABOUT IT, SON. YOU'LL GROW OUT OF IT, AND SO WILL GITANO. YOU'LL SEE. YOU'LL SEE!
WE WILL SEE, **WON'T** WE, GITANO!
BAWWHHH!
BUT AT CALF-BRANDING TIME, THE RANCH OVERSEER SPEAKS TO LEONARDO'S FATHER...
RAFAEL, I HAVE UNHAPPY NEWS--A LETTER FROM SENOR RIVERA, THE RANCH ACCOUNTANT--ABOUT THE CALF!
YES, SEÑOR PALMA?


RIVERA WRITES THAT THE CALF BELONGS TO THE RANCH. I AM INSTRUCTED TO HAVE IT BRANDED WITH THE OTHERS AND TO TURN IT OUT ON THE RANGE AFTERWARDS!
THAT IS NEITHER GOOD NOR JUST, SEÑOR PALMA!

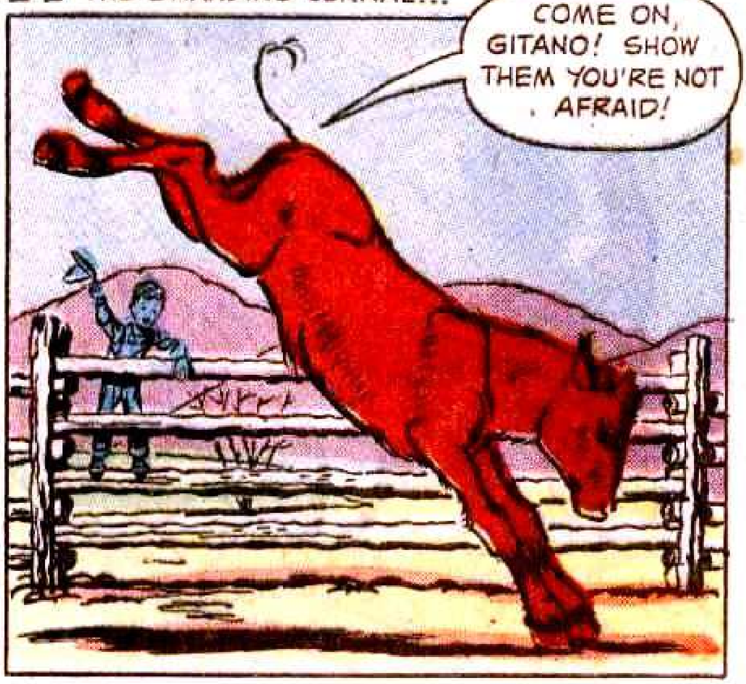

BUT, AMIGO, WHAT CAN I DO?
NOTHING. IT IS QUITE CLEAR. STILL, THIS IS HARD FOR ME. ALL RIGHT. WITH YOUR PERMISSION, I WILL GET THE CALF FOR YOU WHILE LEONARDO IS STILL AT SCHOOL.

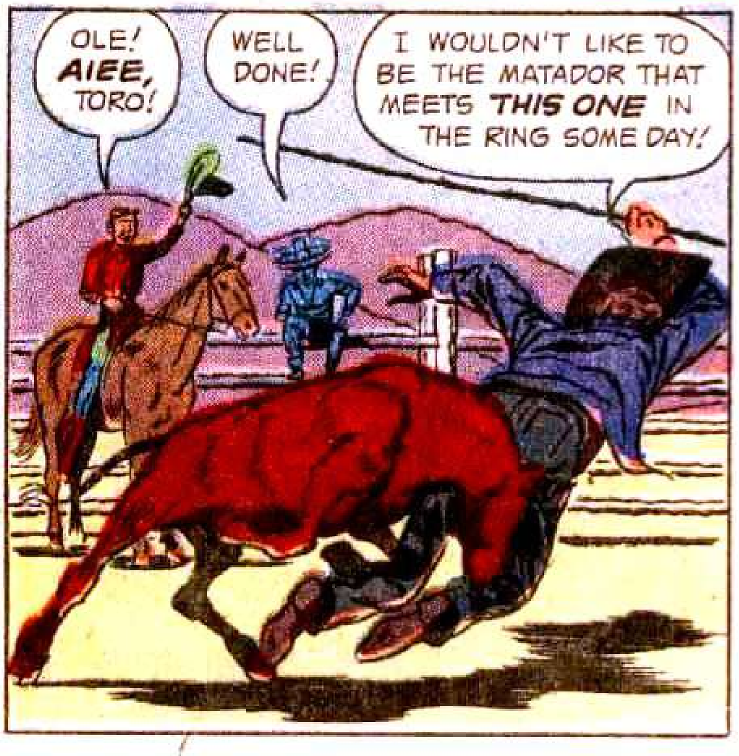
BAD NEWS TRAVELS FAST. THAT AFTERNOON, AS LEONARDO RETURNS FROM SCHOOL...

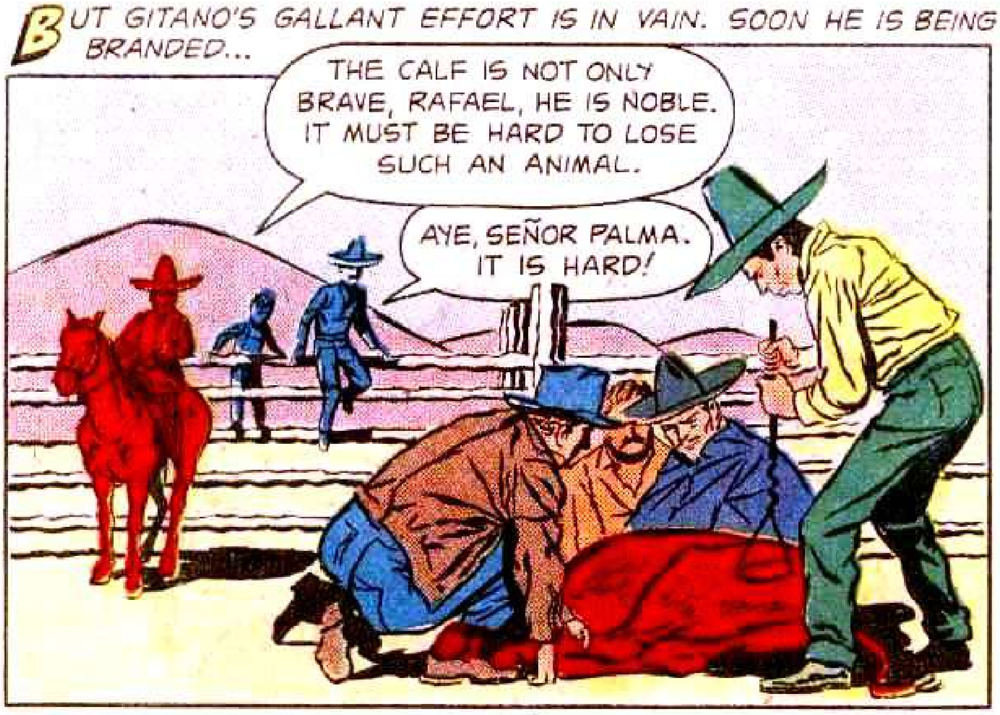

PAPA, IS IT TRUE? DID THEY TAKE GITANO AWAY? DID THEY?
YES, HE IS NO LONGER OURS. WHY DO YOU CRY? YOUR TEARS SHAME ME. EITHER YOU WILL BEHAVE WITH DIGNITY, OR YOU WILL GO HOME WHERE BABIES BELONG!

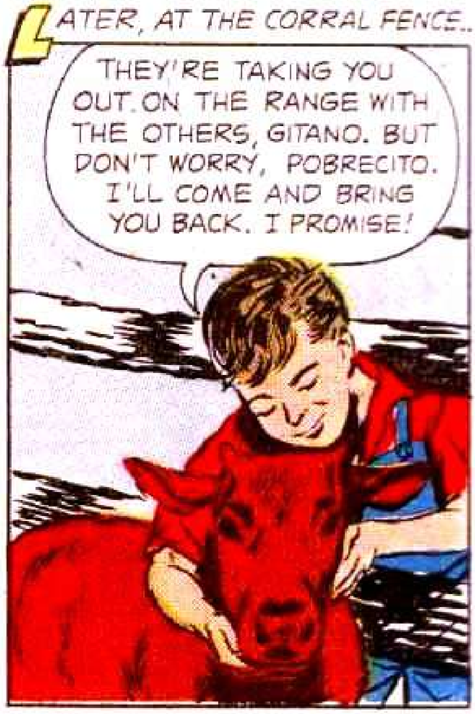

I AM NOT CRYING NOW, PAPA. WH-WHERE IS GITANO?
IN THE CORRAL WITH THE COWS AND CALVES. BETTER NOT TO BOTHER HIM UNTIL HE'S BRANDED!

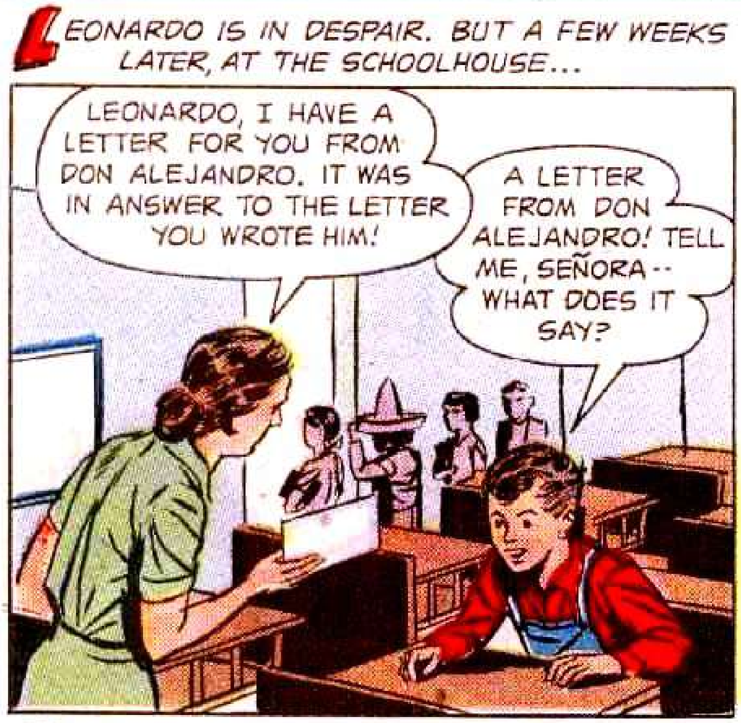
A MOMENT LATER, GITANO CHARGES INTO THE BRANDING CORRAL...

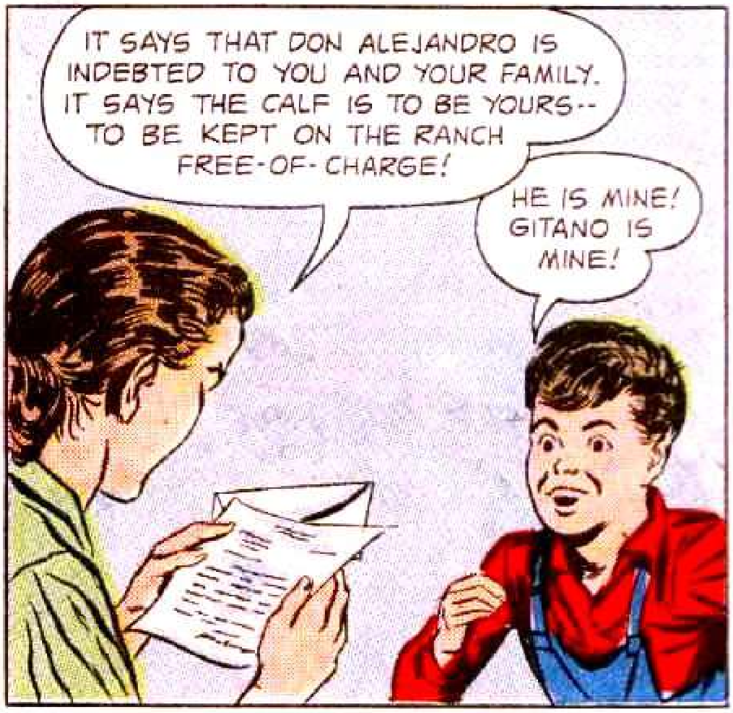

COME ON, GITANO! SHOW THEM YOU'RE NOT AFRAID!

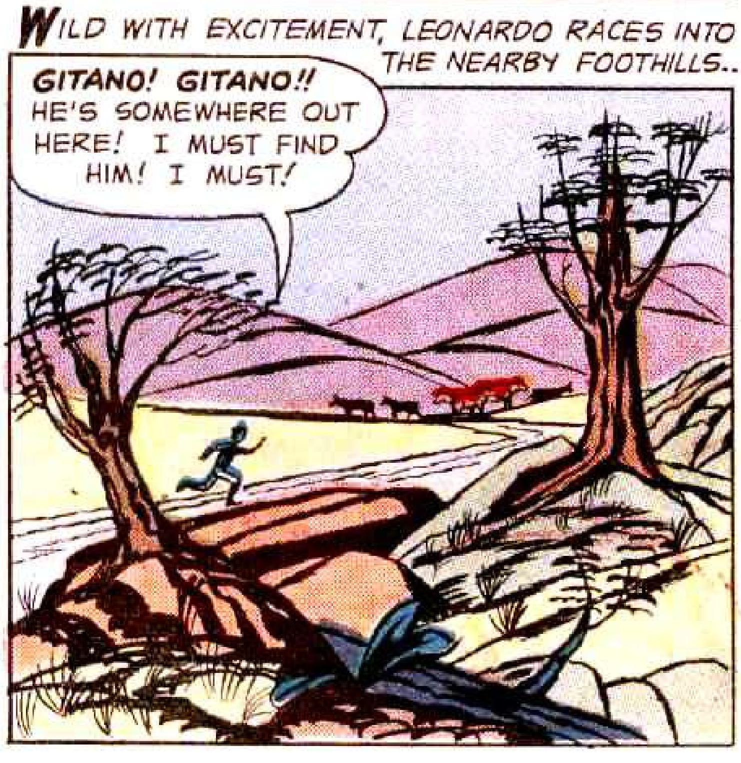

OLE! AIEE, TORO!
WELL DONE!
I WOULDN'T LIKE TO BE THE MATADOR THAT MEETS THIS ONE IN THE RING SOME DAY!

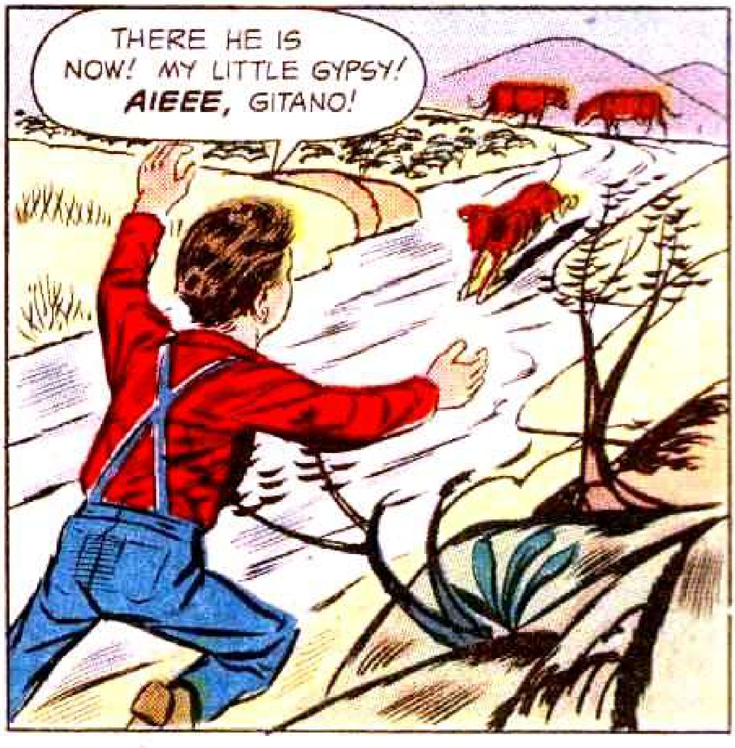

BUT GITANO'S GALLANT EFFORT IS IN VAIN. SOON HE IS BEING BRANDED...
THE CALF IS NOT ONLY BRAVE, RAFAEL, HE IS NOBLE. IT MUST BE HARD TO LOSE SUCH AN ANIMAL.
AYE, SEÑOR PALMA. IT IS HARD!

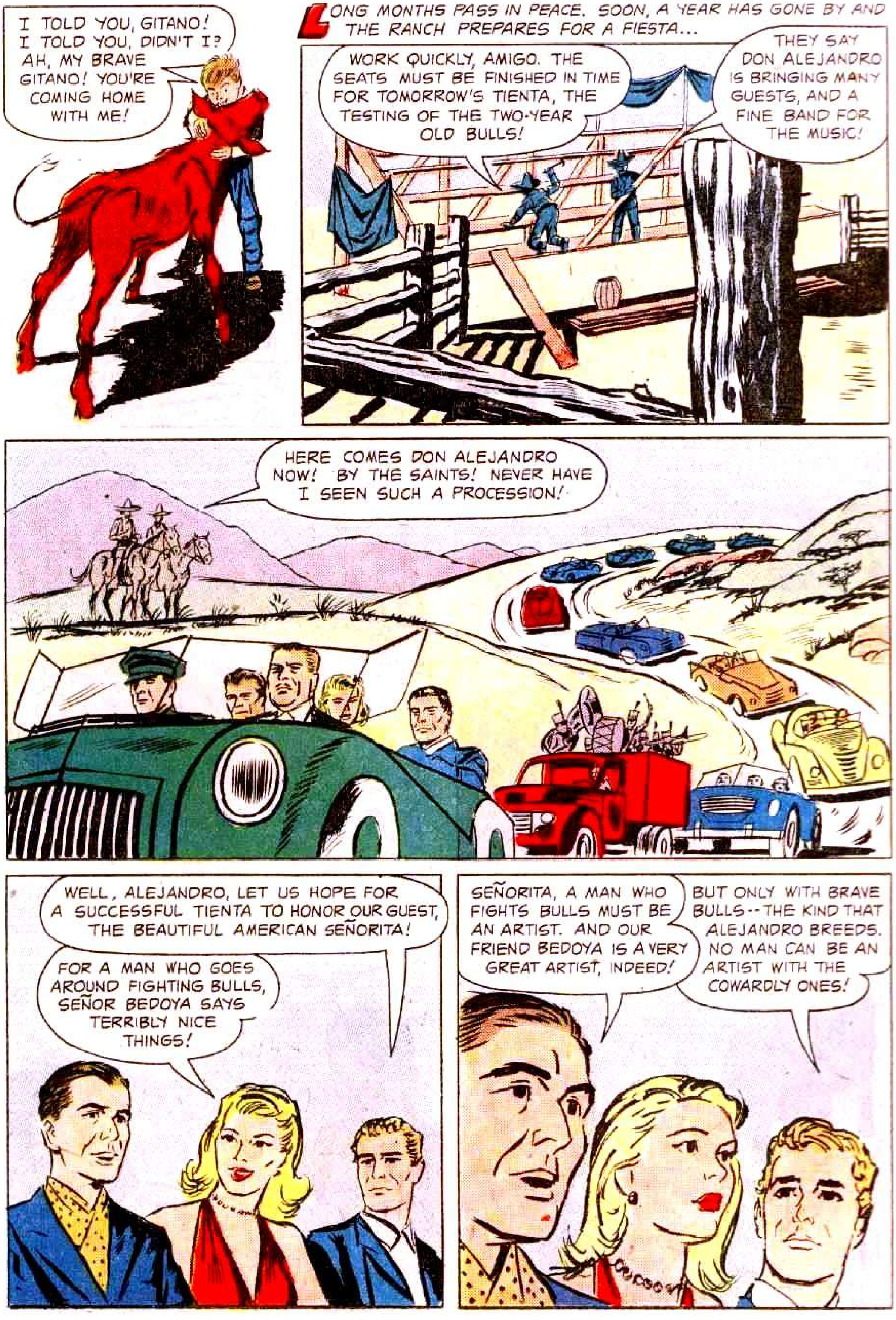

LATER, AT THE CORRAL FENCE...
THEY'RE TAKING YOU OUT ON THE RANGE WITH THE OTHERS, GITANO. BUT DON'T WORRY, POBRECITO. I'LL COME AND BRING YOU BACK. I PROMISE!

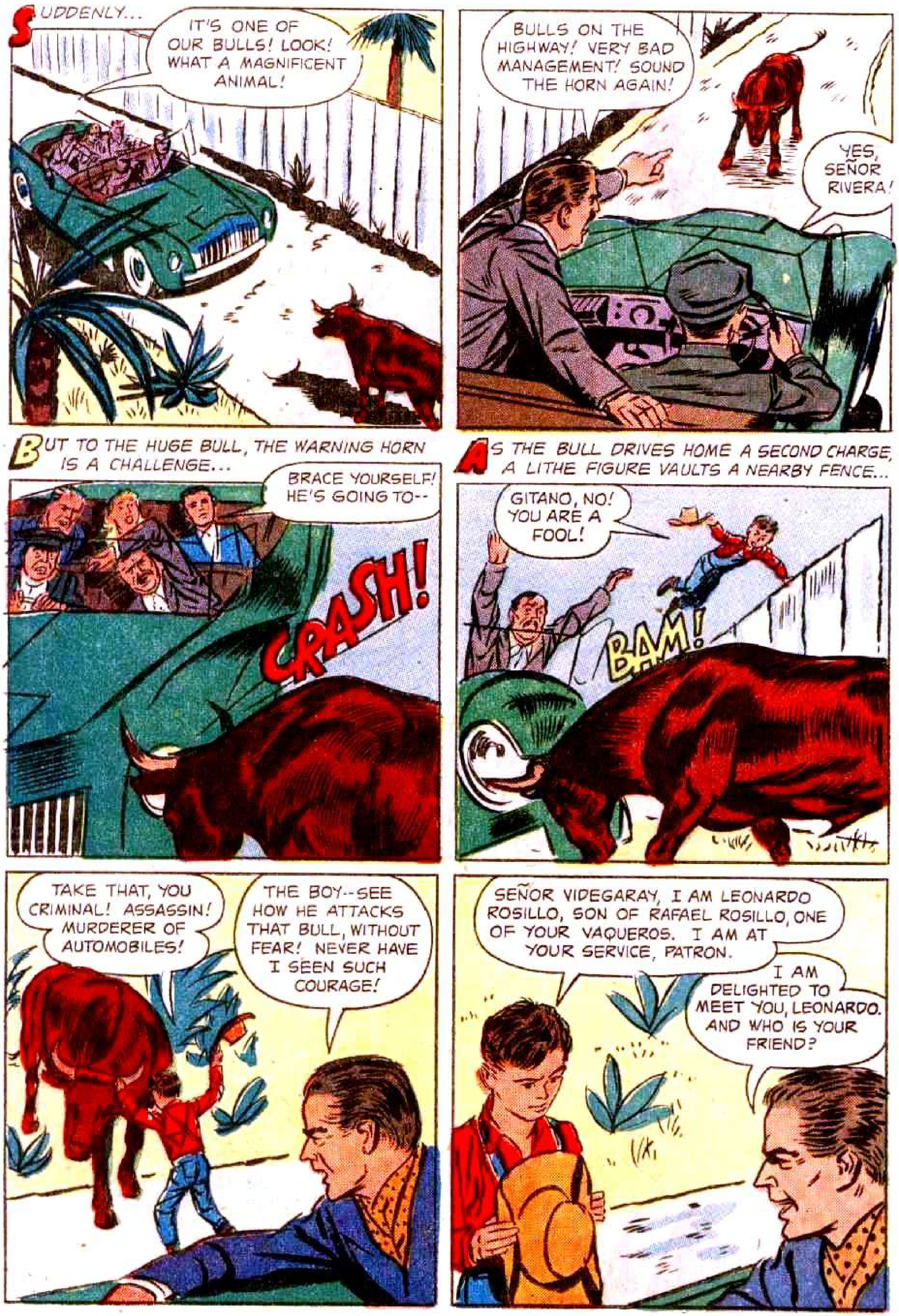

LEONARDO IS IN DESPAIR. BUT A FEW WEEKS LATER, AT THE SCHOOLHOUSE...
LEONARDO, I HAVE A LETTER FOR YOU FROM DON ALEJANDRO. IT WAS IN ANSWER TO THE LETTER YOU WROTE HIM!
A LETTER FROM DON ALEJANDRO! TELL ME, SEÑORA -- WHAT DOES IT SAY?

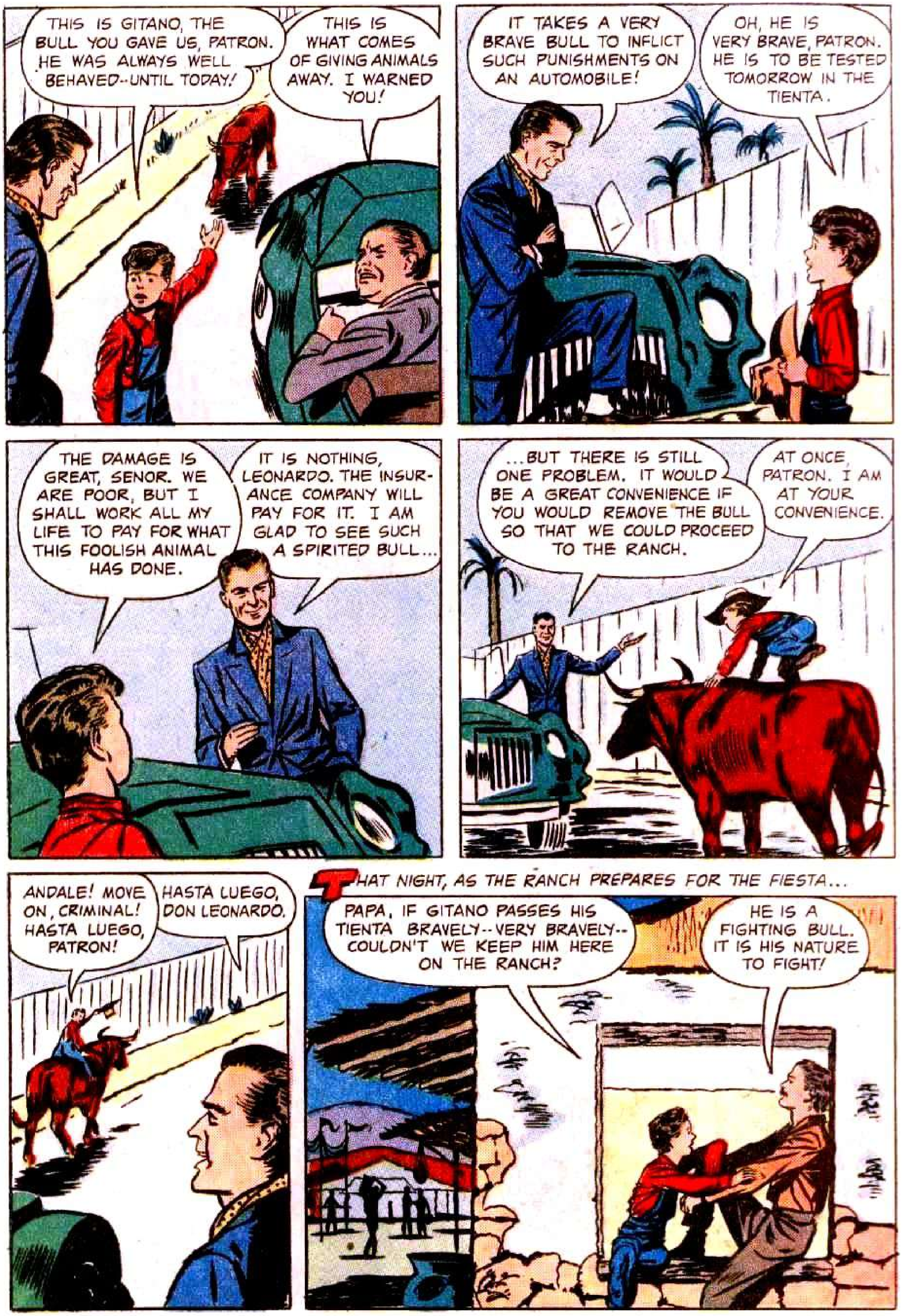

IT SAYS THAT DON ALEJANDRO IS INDEBTED TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY. IT SAYS THE CALF IS TO BE YOURS -- TO BE KEPT ON THE RANCH FREE-OF-CHARGE!
HE IS MINE! GITANO IS MINE!

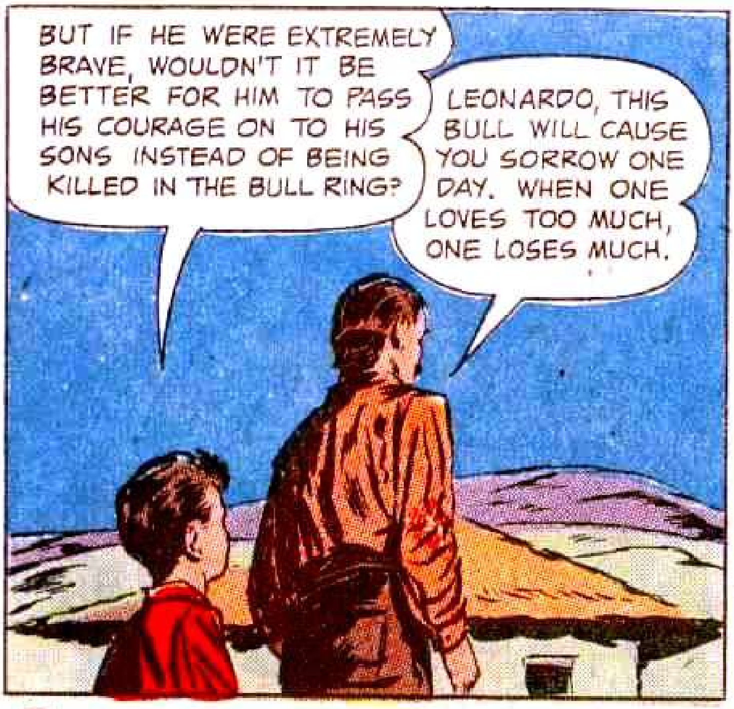

WILD WITH EXCITEMENT, LEONARDO RACES INTO THE NEARBY FOOTHILLS...
GITANO! GITANO!! HE'S SOMEWHERE OUT HERE! I MUST FIND HIM! I MUST!

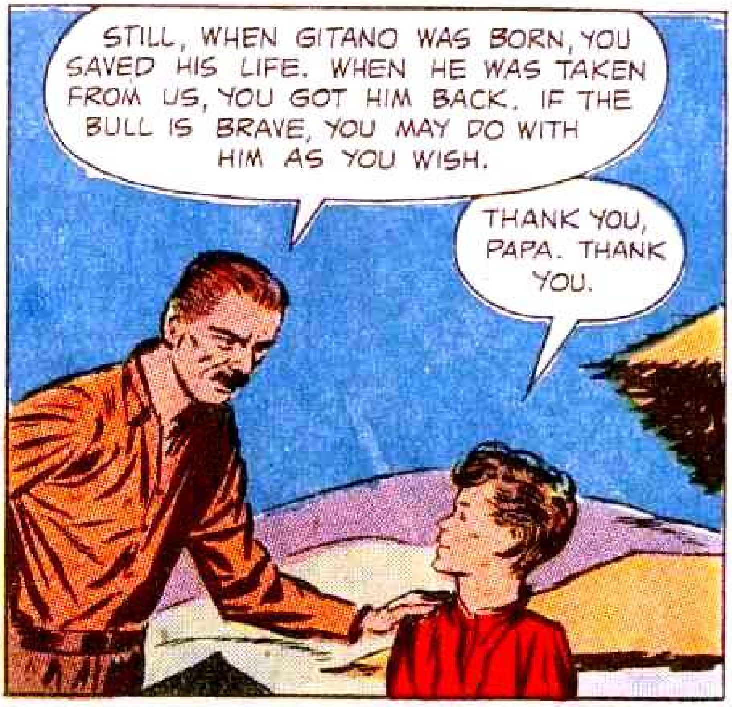

THERE HE IS NOW! MY LITTLE GYPSY! **AIEEE**, GITANO!


I TOLD YOU, GITANO! I TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I? AH, MY BRAVE GITANO! YOU'RE COMING HOME WITH ME!
LONG MONTHS PASS IN PEACE. SOON, A YEAR HAS GONE BY AND THE RANCH PREPARES FOR A FIESTA...
WORK QUICKLY, AMIGO. THE SEATS MUST BE FINISHED IN TIME FOR TOMORROW'S TIENTA, THE TESTING OF THE TWO-YEAR OLD BULLS!
THEY SAY DON ALEJANDRO IS BRINGING MANY GUESTS, AND A FINE BAND FOR THE MUSIC!
HERE COMES DON ALEJANDRO NOW! BY THE SAINTS! NEVER HAVE I SEEN SUCH A PROCESSION!
WELL, ALEJANDRO, LET US HOPE FOR A SUCCESSFUL TIENTA TO HONOR OUR GUEST, THE BEAUTIFUL AMERICAN SEÑORITA!
FOR A MAN WHO GOES AROUND FIGHTING BULLS, SEÑOR BEDOYA SAYS TERRIBLY NICE THINGS!
SEÑORITA, A MAN WHO FIGHTS BULLS MUST BE AN ARTIST. AND OUR FRIEND BEDOYA IS A VERY GREAT ARTIST, INDEED!
BUT ONLY WITH BRAVE BULLS--THE KIND THAT ALEJANDRO BREEDS. NO MAN CAN BE AN ARTIST WITH THE COWARDLY ONES!

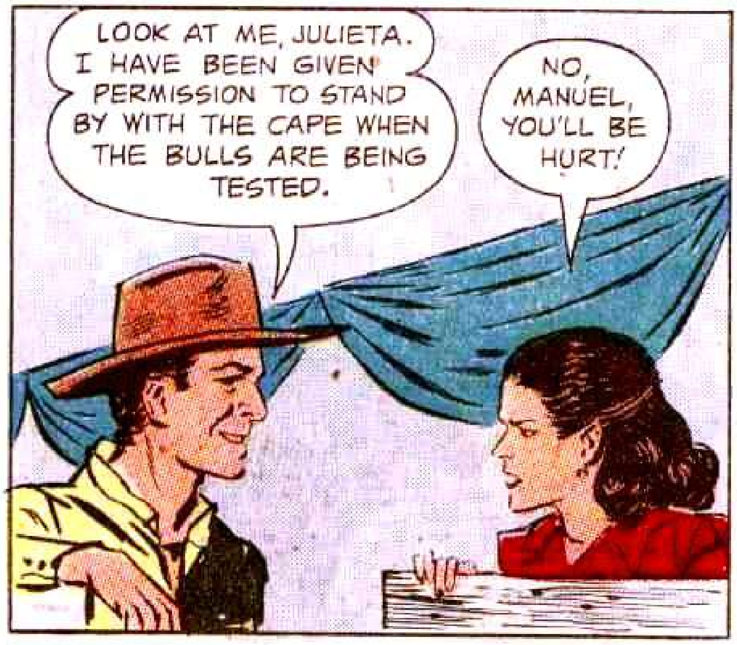

SUDDENLY...
IT'S ONE OF OUR BULLS! LOOK! WHAT A MAGNIFICENT ANIMAL!
BULLS ON THE HIGHWAY! VERY BAD MANAGEMENT! SOUND THE HORN AGAIN!
YES, SEÑOR RIVERA!
BUT TO THE HUGE BULL, THE WARNING HORN IS A CHALLENGE...
BRACE YOURSELF! HE'S GOING TO--
CRASH!
AS THE BULL DRIVES HOME A SECOND CHARGE, A LITHE FIGURE VAULTS A NEARBY FENCE...
GITANO, NO! YOU ARE A FOOL!
BAM!
TAKE THAT, YOU CRIMINAL! ASSASSIN! MURDERER OF AUTOMOBILES!
THE BOY--SEE HOW HE ATTACKS THAT BULL, WITHOUT FEAR! NEVER HAVE I SEEN SUCH COURAGE!
SEÑOR VIDEGARAY, I AM LEONARDO ROSILLO, SON OF RAFAEL ROSILLO, ONE OF YOUR VAQUEROS. I AM AT YOUR SERVICE, PATRON.
I AM DELIGHTED TO MEET YOU, LEONARDO. AND WHO IS YOUR FRIEND?

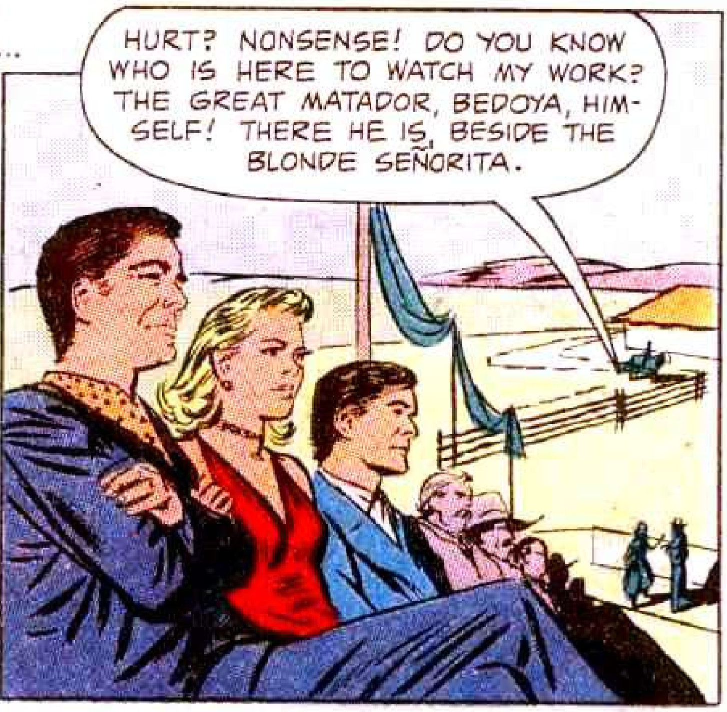

THIS IS GITANO, THE BULL YOU GAVE US, PATRON. HE WAS ALWAYS WELL BEHAVED--UNTIL TODAY!
THIS IS WHAT COMES OF GIVING ANIMALS AWAY. I WARNED YOU!
IT TAKES A VERY BRAVE BULL TO INFLICT SUCH PUNISHMENTS ON AN AUTOMOBILE!
OH, HE IS VERY BRAVE, PATRON. HE IS TO BE TESTED TOMORROW IN THE TIENTA.
THE DAMAGE IS GREAT, SENOR. WE ARE POOR, BUT I SHALL WORK ALL MY LIFE TO PAY FOR WHAT THIS FOOLISH ANIMAL HAS DONE.
IT IS NOTHING, LEONARDO. THE INSURANCE COMPANY WILL PAY FOR IT. I AM GLAD TO SEE SUCH A SPIRITED BULL...
...BUT THERE IS STILL ONE PROBLEM. IT WOULD BE A GREAT CONVENIENCE IF YOU WOULD REMOVE THE BULL SO THAT WE COULD PROCEED TO THE RANCH.
AT ONCE, PATRON. I AM AT YOUR CONVENIENCE.
ANDALE! MOVE ON, CRIMINAL! HASTA LUEGO, PATRON!
HASTA LUEGO, DON LEONARDO.
THAT NIGHT, AS THE RANCH PREPARES FOR THE FIESTA...
PAPA, IF GITANO PASSES HIS TIENTA BRAVELY--VERY BRAVELY--COULDN'T WE KEEP HIM HERE ON THE RANCH?
HE IS A FIGHTING BULL. IT IS HIS NATURE TO FIGHT!

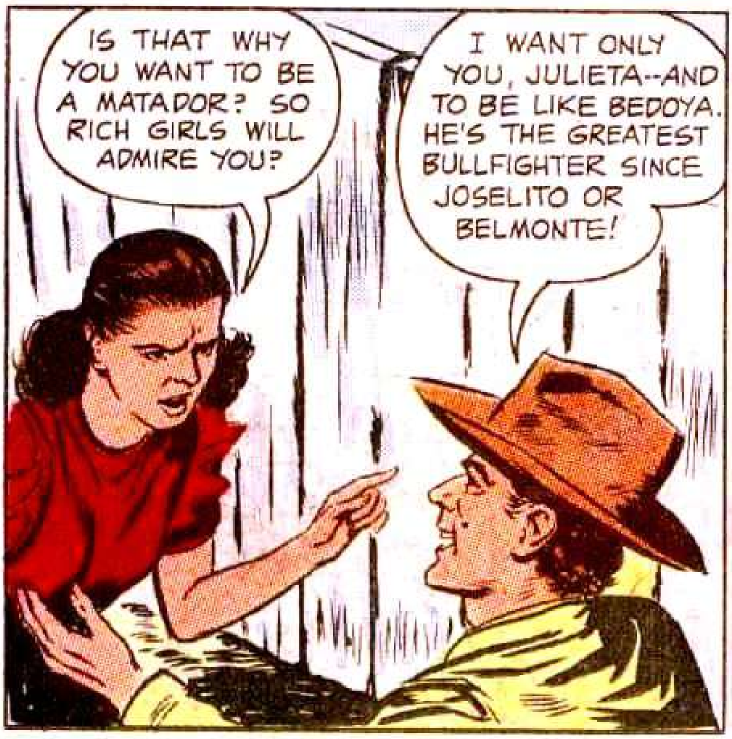

BUT IF HE WERE EXTREMELY BRAVE, WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER FOR HIM TO PASS HIS COURAGE ON TO HIS SONS INSTEAD OF BEING KILLED IN THE BULL RING?
LEONARDO, THIS BULL WILL CAUSE YOU SORROW ONE DAY. WHEN ONE LOVES TOO MUCH, ONE LOSES MUCH.

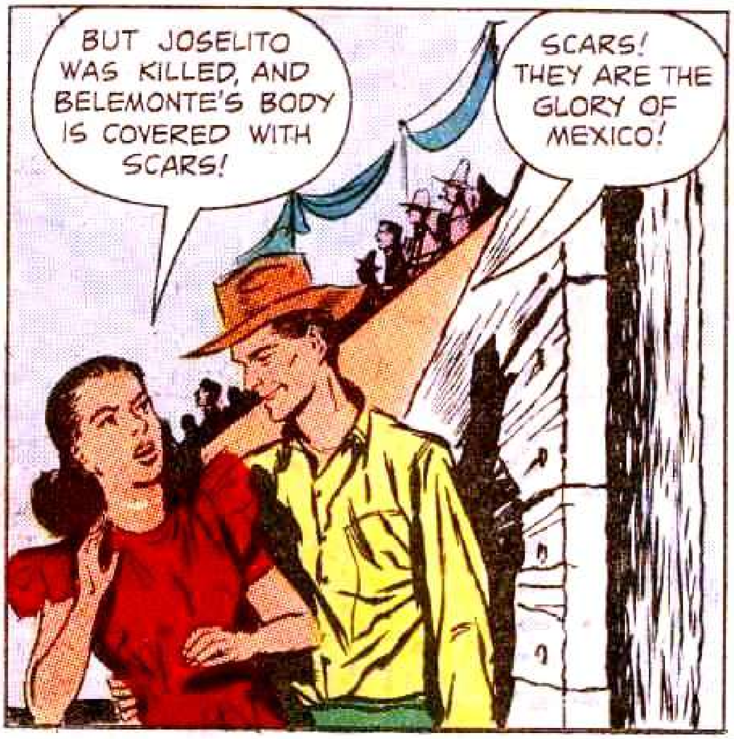

STILL, WHEN GITANO WAS BORN, YOU SAVED HIS LIFE. WHEN HE WAS TAKEN FROM US, YOU GOT HIM BACK. IF THE BULL IS BRAVE, YOU MAY DO WITH HIM AS YOU WISH.
THANK YOU, PAPA. THANK YOU.

BUT LEONARDO'S SISTER HAS MISGIVINGS ABOUT THE TIENTA, TOO. THE NEXT DAY, AT THE CORRALS...

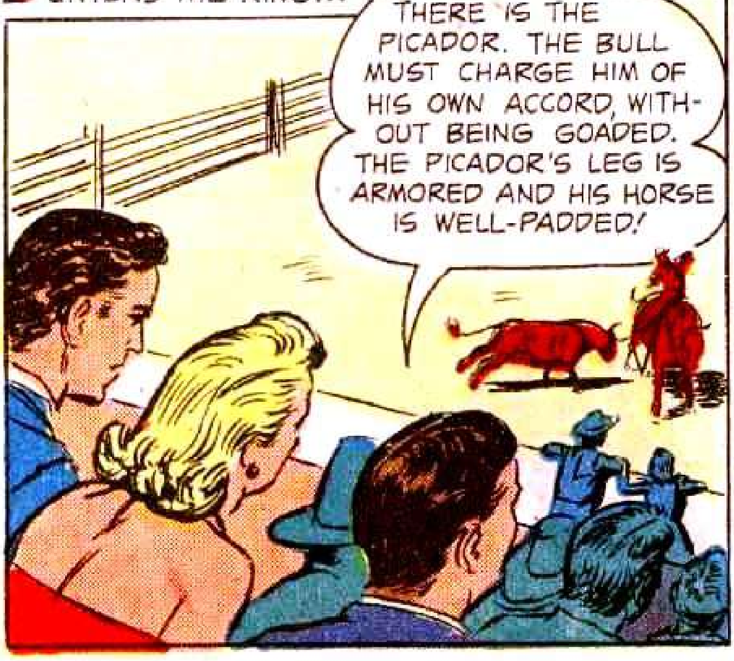

LOOK AT ME, JULIETA. I HAVE BEEN GIVEN PERMISSION TO STAND BY WITH THE CAPE WHEN THE BULLS ARE BEING TESTED.
NO, MANUEL, YOU'LL BE HURT!

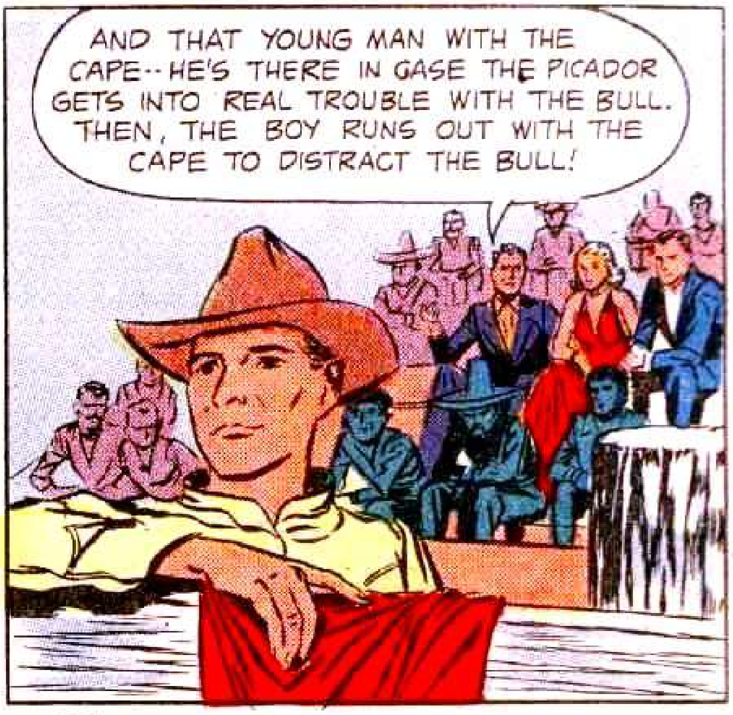

HURT? NONSENSE! DO YOU KNOW WHO IS HERE TO WATCH MY WORK? THE GREAT MATADOR, BEDOYA, HIMSELF! THERE HE IS, BESIDE THE BLONDE SEÑORITA.

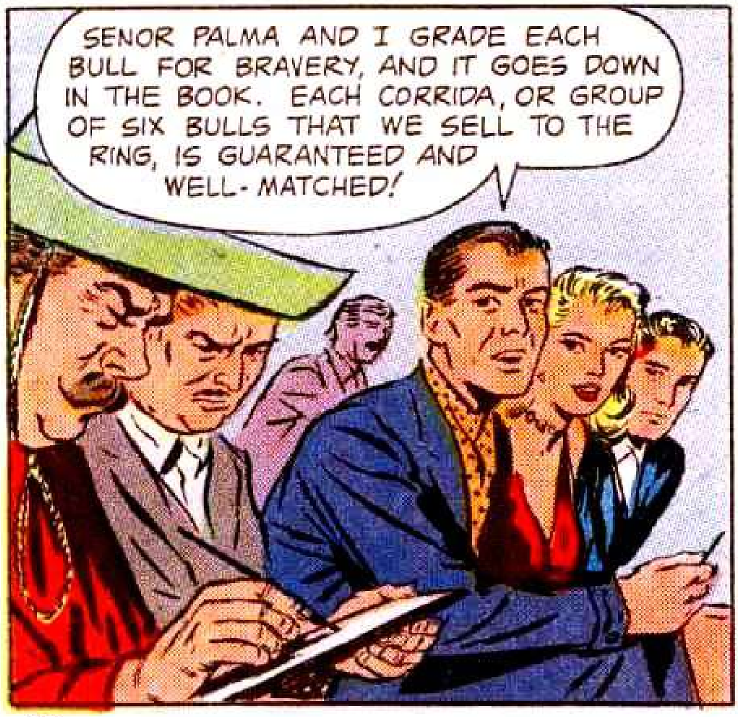

IS THAT WHY YOU WANT TO BE A MATADOR? SO RICH GIRLS WILL ADMIRE YOU?
I WANT ONLY YOU, JULIETA--AND TO BE LIKE BEDOYA. HE'S THE GREATEST BULLFIGHTER SINCE JOSELITO OR BELMONTE!


BUT JOSELITO WAS KILLED, AND BELEMONTE'S BODY IS COVERED WITH SCARS!
SCARS! THEY ARE THE GLORY OF MEXICO!

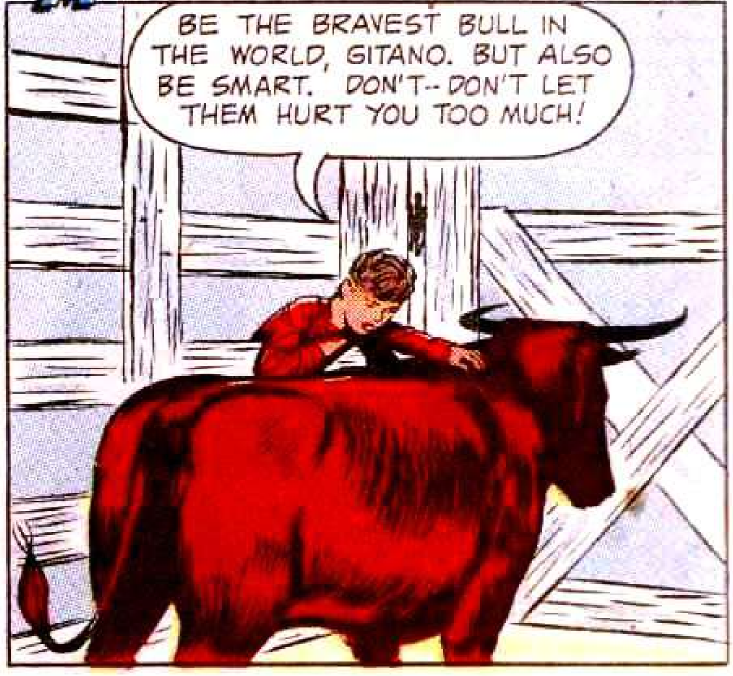
THE TIENTA BEGINS. THE FIRST YOUNG BULL ENTERS THE RING...


THERE IS THE PICADOR. THE BULL MUST CHARGE HIM OF HIS OWN ACCORD, WITHOUT BEING GOADED. THE PICADOR'S LEG IS ARMORED AND HIS HORSE IS WELL-PADDED!

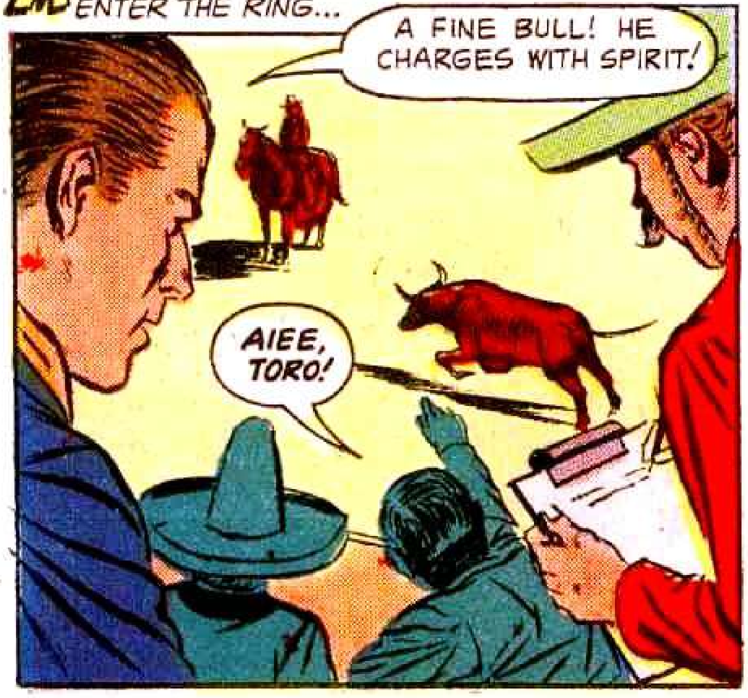

AND THAT YOUNG MAN WITH THE CAPE--HE'S THERE IN CASE THE PICADOR GETS INTO REAL TROUBLE WITH THE BULL. THEN, THE BOY RUNS OUT WITH THE CAPE TO DISTRACT THE BULL!

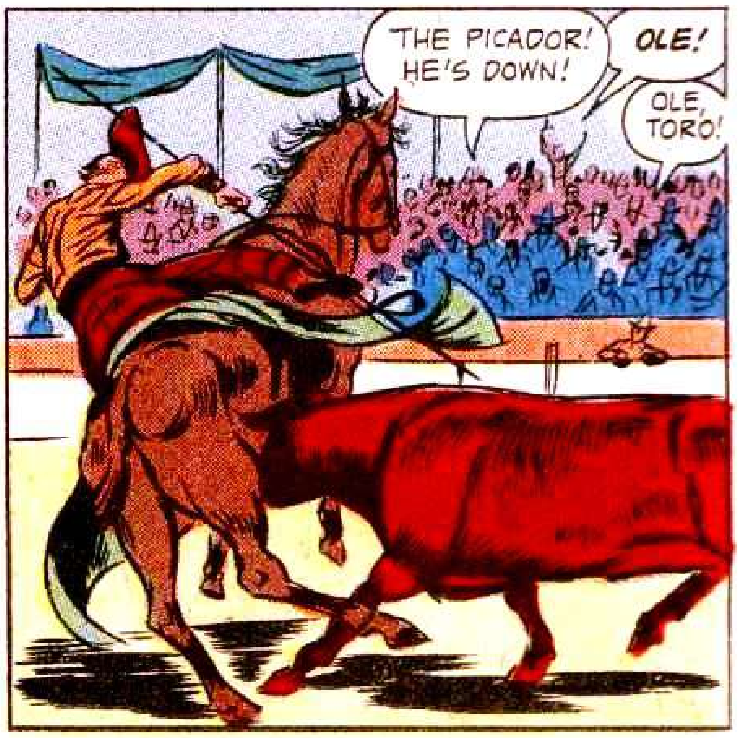

SENOR PALMA AND I GRADE EACH BULL FOR BRAVERY, AND IT GOES DOWN IN THE BOOK. EACH CORRIDA, OR GROUP OF SIX BULLS THAT WE SELL TO THE RING, IS GUARANTEED AND WELL-MATCHED!

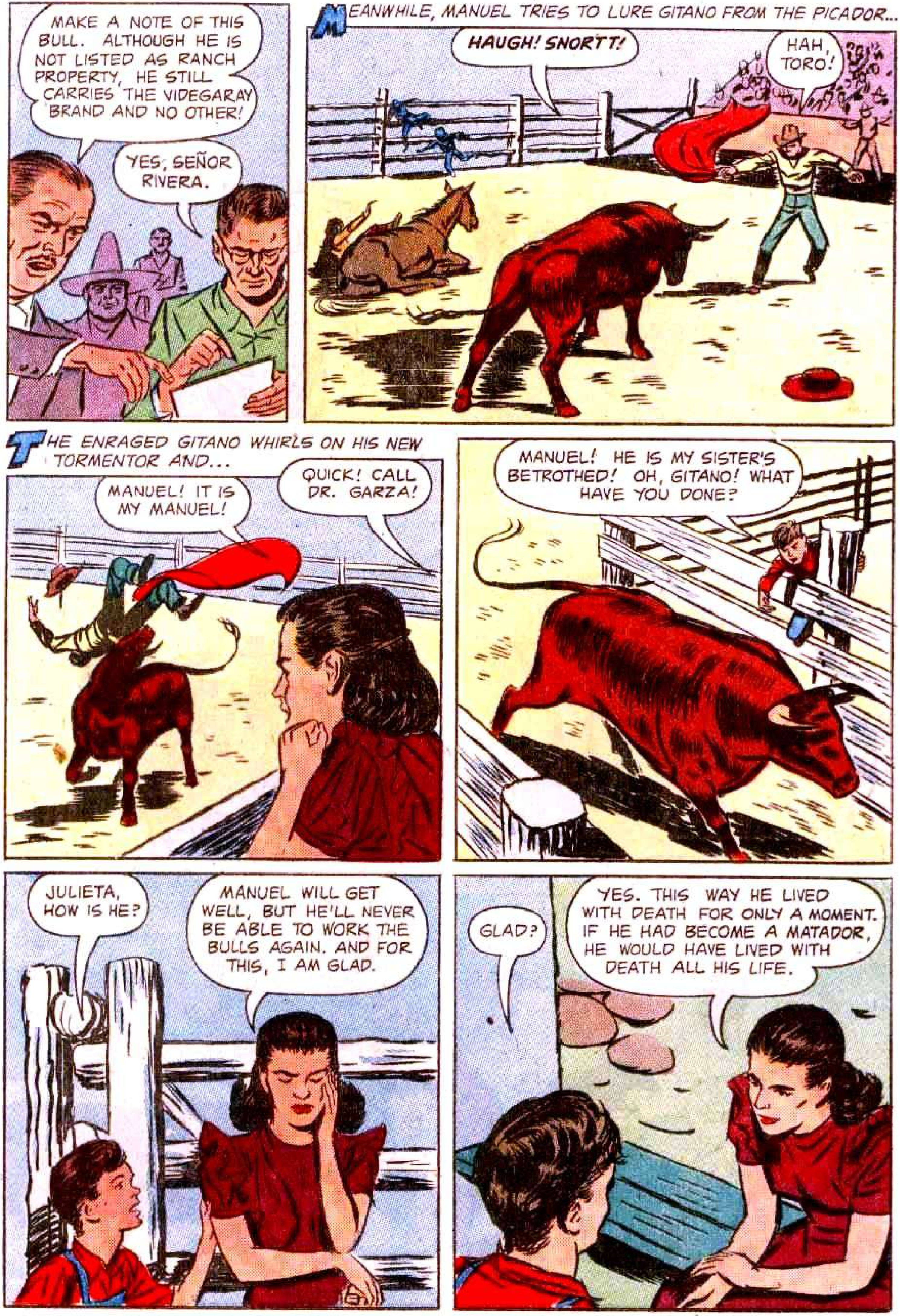
MEANWHILE, GITANO AWAITS HIS TEST...

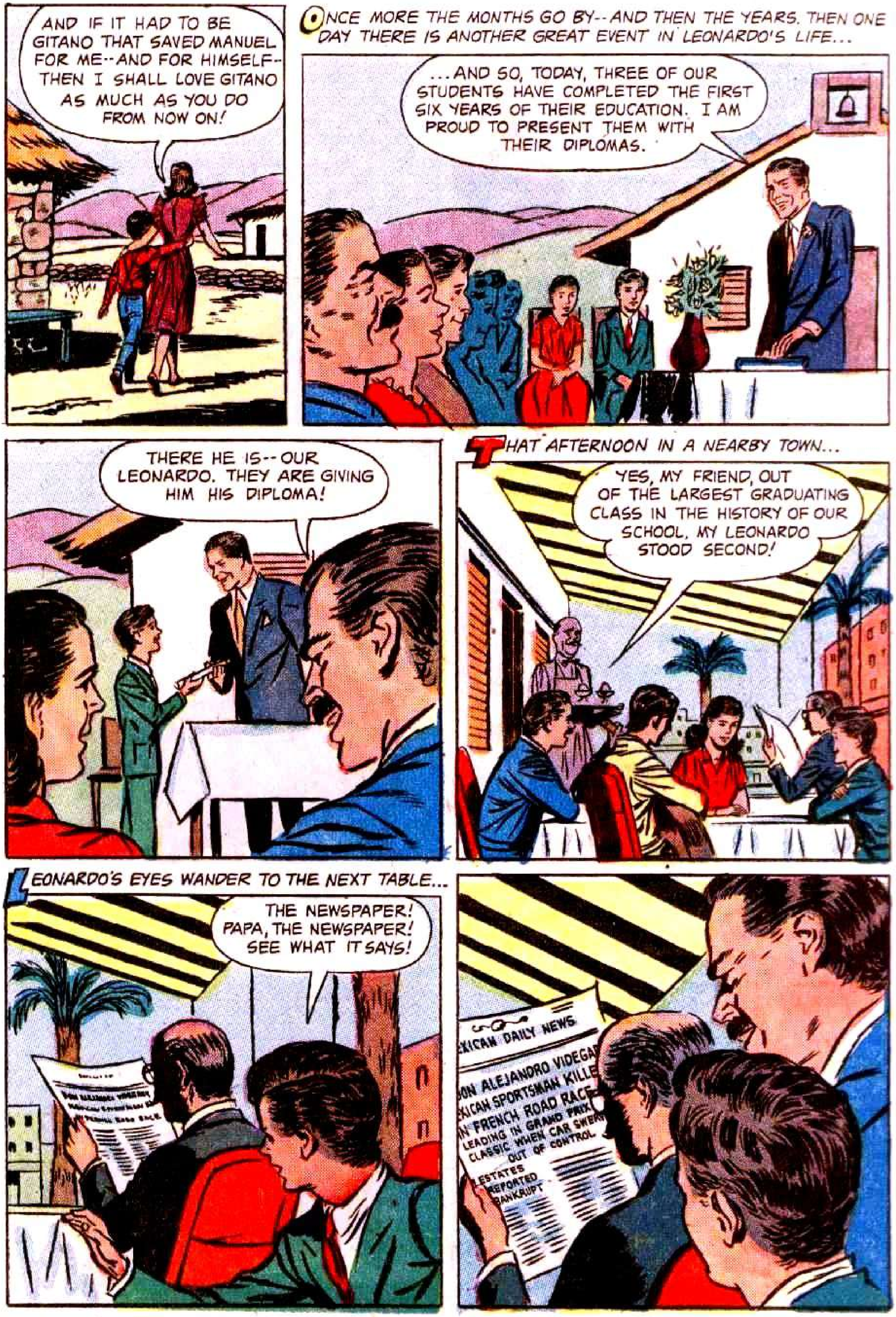

BE THE BRAVEST BULL IN THE WORLD, GITANO. BUT ALSO BE SMART. DON'T--DON'T LET THEM HURT YOU TOO MUCH!

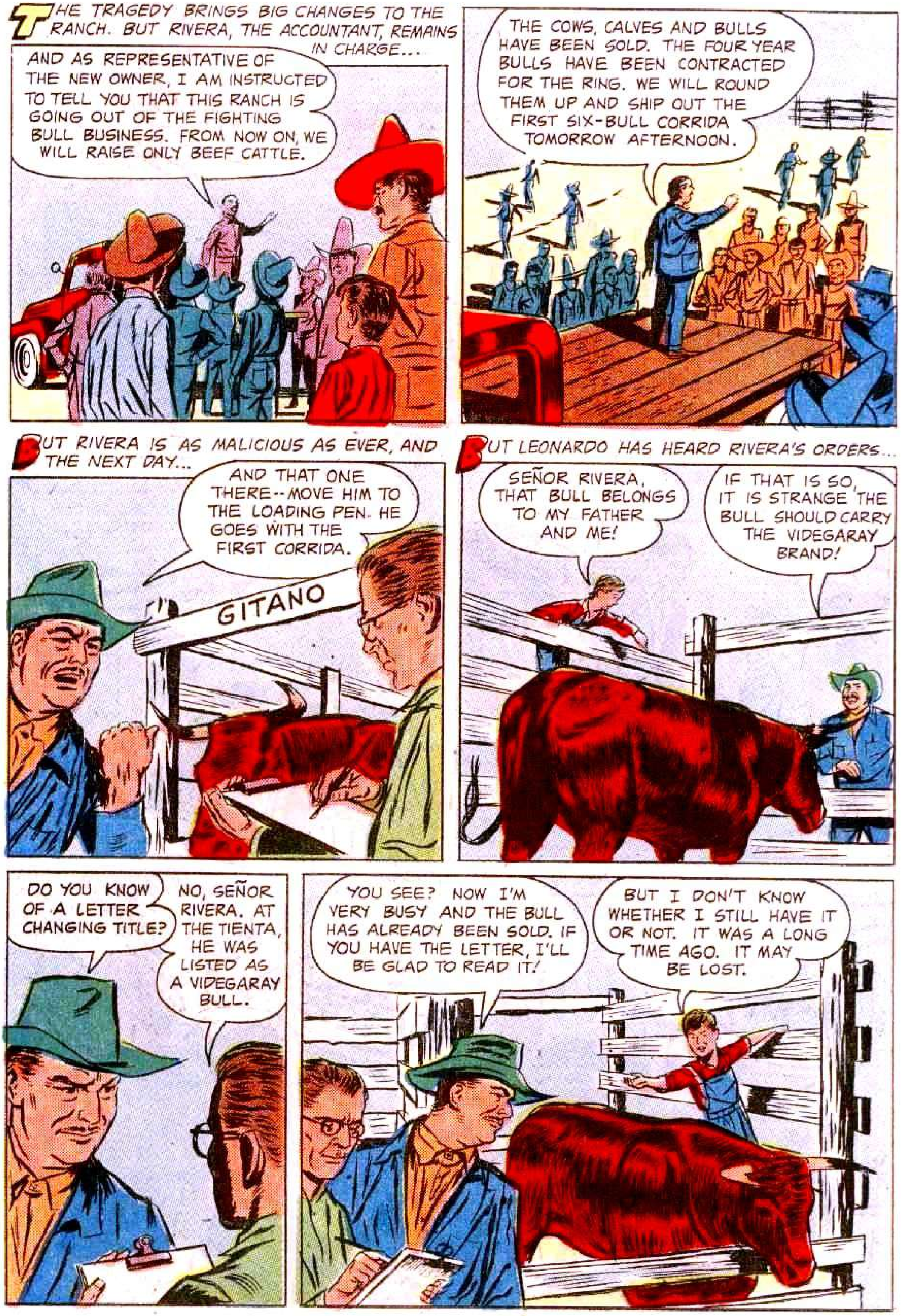
MOMENTS LATER, IT IS GITANO'S TURN TO ENTER THE RING...

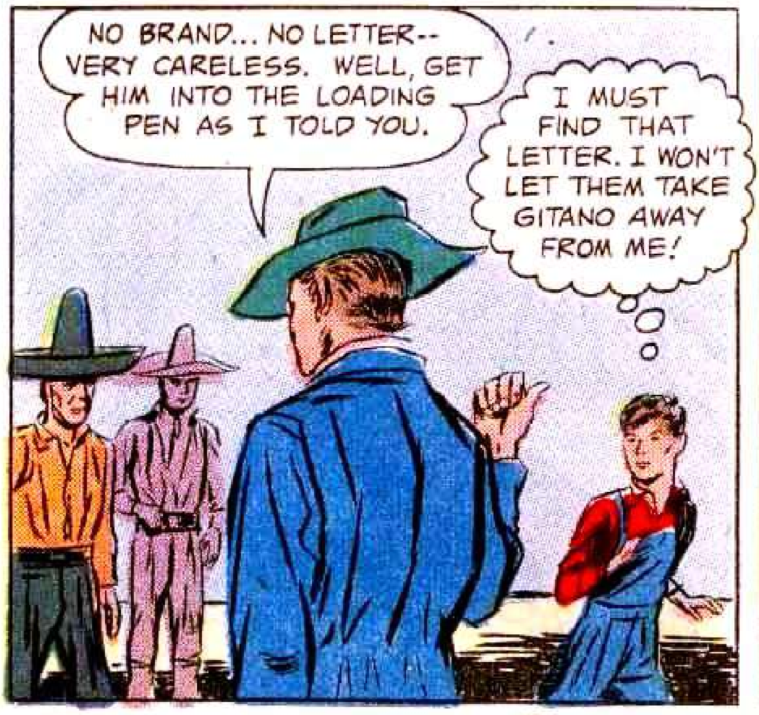

A FINE BULL! HE CHARGES WITH SPIRIT!
AIEE, TORO!


THE PICADOR! HE'S DOWN!
OLE!
OLE, TORO!

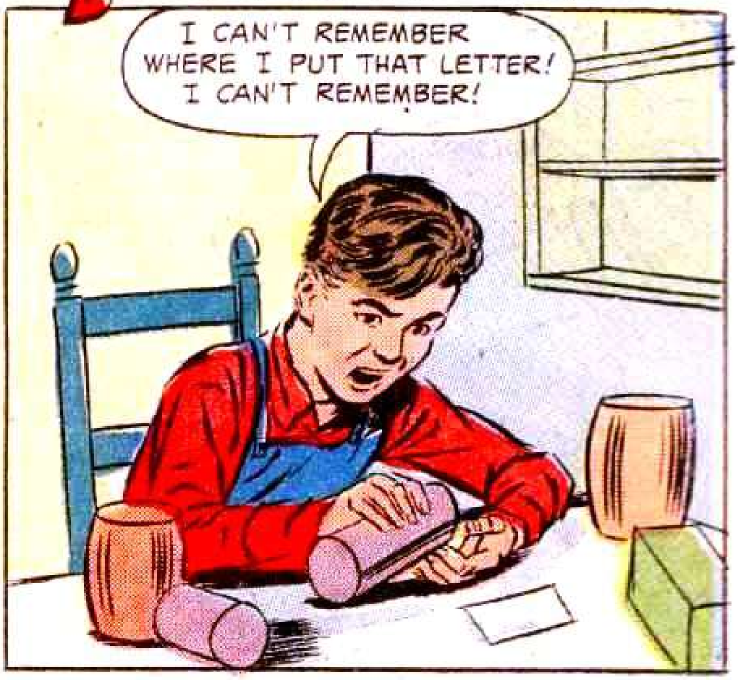

MAKE A NOTE OF THIS BULL. ALTHOUGH HE IS NOT LISTED AS RANCH PROPERTY, HE STILL CARRIES THE VIDEGARAY BRAND AND NO OTHER!
YES, SEÑOR RIVERA.
MEANWHILE, MANUEL TRIES TO LURE GITANO FROM THE PICADOR...
HAUGH! SNORTT!
HAH, TORO!
THE ENRAGED GITANO WHIRLS ON HIS NEW TORMENTOR AND...
MANUEL! IT IS MY MANUEL!
QUICK! CALL DR. GARZA!
MANUEL! HE IS MY SISTER'S BETROTHED! OH, GITANO! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
JULIETA, HOW IS HE?
MANUEL WILL GET WELL, BUT HE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO WORK THE BULLS AGAIN. AND FOR THIS, I AM GLAD.
GLAD?
YES. THIS WAY HE LIVED WITH DEATH FOR ONLY A MOMENT. IF HE HAD BECOME A MATADOR, HE WOULD HAVE LIVED WITH DEATH ALL HIS LIFE.

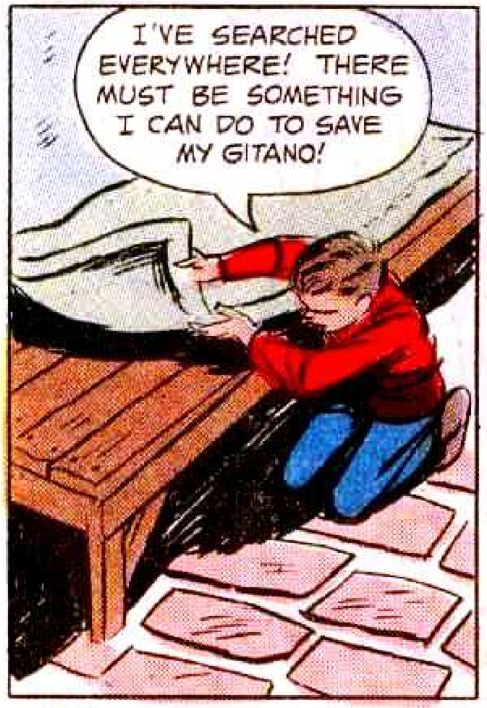

AND IF IT HAD TO BE GITANO THAT SAVED MANUEL FOR ME--AND FOR HIMSELF--THEN I SHALL LOVE GITANO AS MUCH AS YOU DO FROM NOW ON!
ONCE MORE THE MONTHS GO BY--AND THEN THE YEARS. THEN ONE DAY THERE IS ANOTHER GREAT EVENT IN LEONARDO'S LIFE...
...AND SO, TODAY, THREE OF OUR STUDENTS HAVE COMPLETED THE FIRST SIX YEARS OF THEIR EDUCATION. I AM PROUD TO PRESENT THEM WITH THEIR DIPLOMAS.
THERE HE IS--OUR LEONARDO. THEY ARE GIVING HIM HIS DIPLOMA!
THAT AFTERNOON IN A NEARBY TOWN...
YES, MY FRIEND, OUT OF THE LARGEST GRADUATING CLASS IN THE HISTORY OF OUR SCHOOL, MY LEONARDO STOOD SECOND!
LEONARDO'S EYES WANDER TO THE NEXT TABLE...
THE NEWSPAPER! PAPA, THE NEWSPAPER! SEE WHAT IT SAYS!
EXICAN DAILY NEWS
DON ALEJANDRO VIDEGA
EXICAN SPORTSMAN KILLE
IN FRENCH ROAD RACE
LEADING IN GRAND PRIX
CLASSIC WHEN CAR SWER
OUT OF CONTROL
ESTATES
REPORTED
BANKRUPT


THE TRAGEDY BRINGS BIG CHANGES TO THE RANCH. BUT RIVERA, THE ACCOUNTANT, REMAINS IN CHARGE...
AND AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NEW OWNER, I AM INSTRUCTED TO TELL YOU THAT THIS RANCH IS GOING OUT OF THE FIGHTING BULL BUSINESS. FROM NOW ON, WE WILL RAISE ONLY BEEF CATTLE.
THE COWS, CALVES AND BULLS HAVE BEEN SOLD. THE FOUR YEAR BULLS HAVE BEEN CONTRACTED FOR THE RING. WE WILL ROUND THEM UP AND SHIP OUT THE FIRST SIX-BULL CORRIDA TOMORROW AFTERNOON.
BUT RIVERA IS AS MALICIOUS AS EVER, AND THE NEXT DAY...
AND THAT ONE THERE--MOVE HIM TO THE LOADING PEN. HE GOES WITH THE FIRST CORRIDA.
GITANO
BUT LEONARDO HAS HEARD RIVERA'S ORDERS...
SEÑOR RIVERA, THAT BULL BELONGS TO MY FATHER AND ME!
IF THAT IS SO, IT IS STRANGE THE BULL SHOULD CARRY THE VIDEGARAY BRAND!
DO YOU KNOW OF A LETTER CHANGING TITLE?
NO, SEÑOR RIVERA. AT THE TIENTA, HE WAS LISTED AS A VIDEGARAY BULL.
YOU SEE? NOW I'M VERY BUSY AND THE BULL HAS ALREADY BEEN SOLD. IF YOU HAVE THE LETTER, I'LL BE GLAD TO READ IT!
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHETHER I STILL HAVE IT OR NOT. IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO. IT MAY BE LOST.

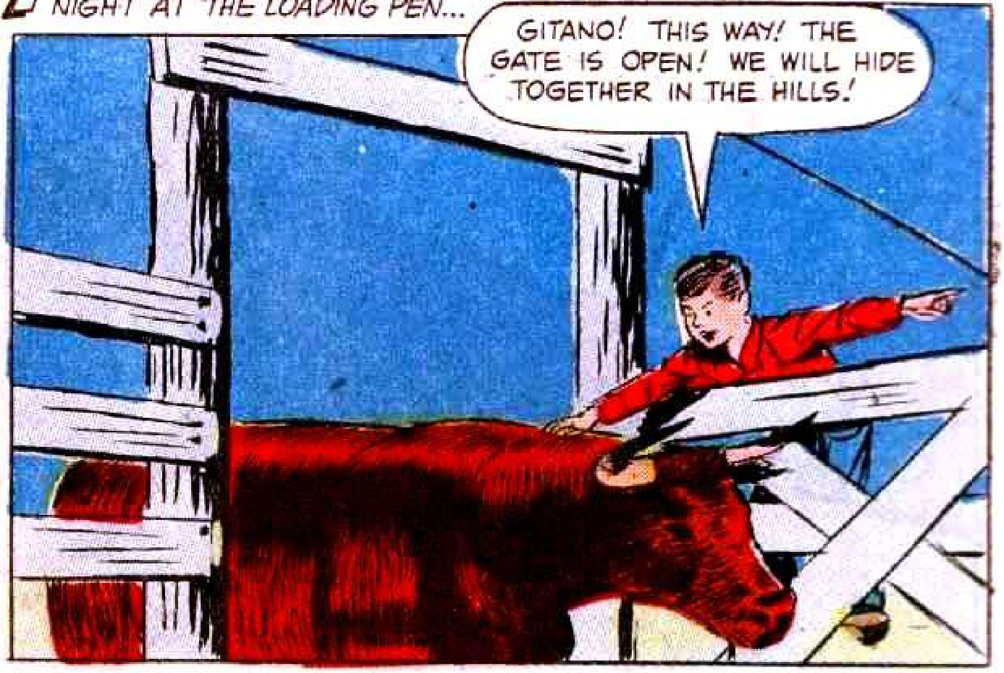

NO BRAND... NO LETTER-- VERY CARELESS. WELL, GET HIM INTO THE LOADING PEN AS I TOLD YOU.
I MUST FIND THAT LETTER. I WON'T LET THEM TAKE GITANO AWAY FROM ME!

BUT THE SEARCH PROVES IN VAIN...

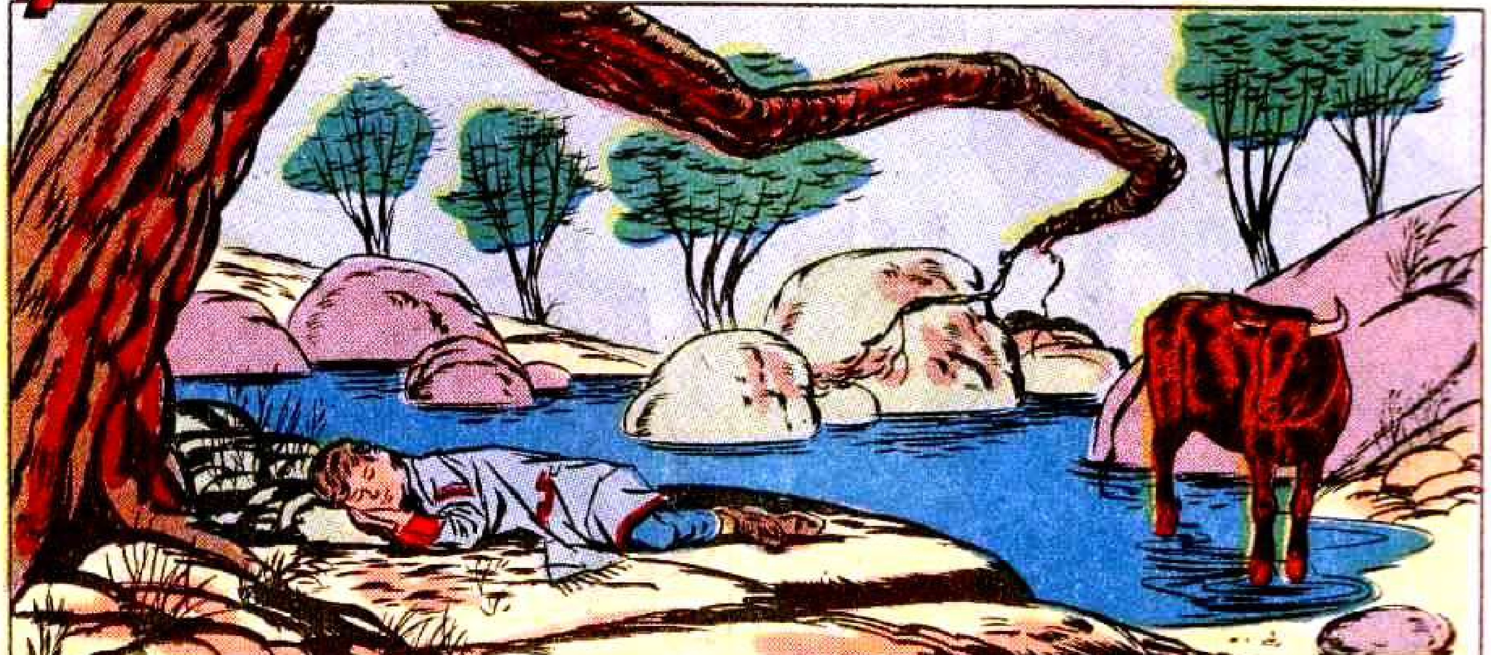

I CAN'T REMEMBER WHERE I PUT THAT LETTER! I CAN'T REMEMBER!

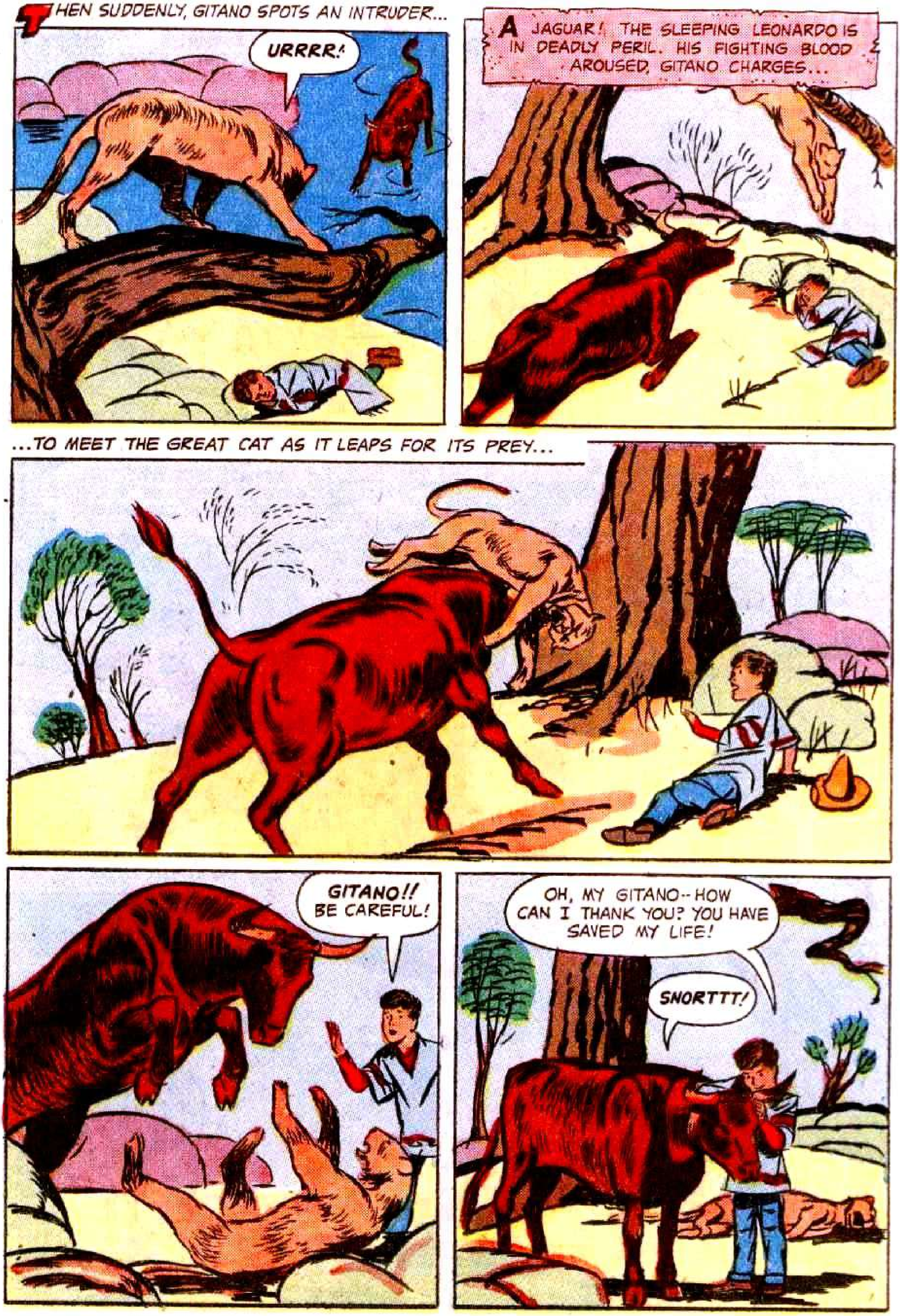

I'VE SEARCHED EVERYWHERE! THERE MUST BE SOMETHING I CAN DO TO SAVE MY GITANO!

IN DESPAIR, THE BOY FORMS A DESPERATE PLAN, AND THAT NIGHT AT THE LOADING PEN...

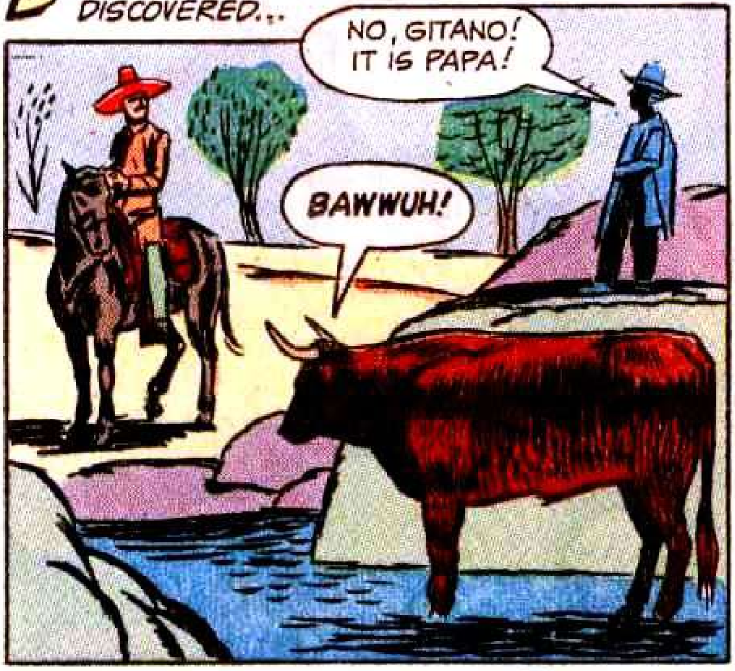

GITANO! THIS WAY! THE GATE IS OPEN! WE WILL HIDE TOGETHER IN THE HILLS!

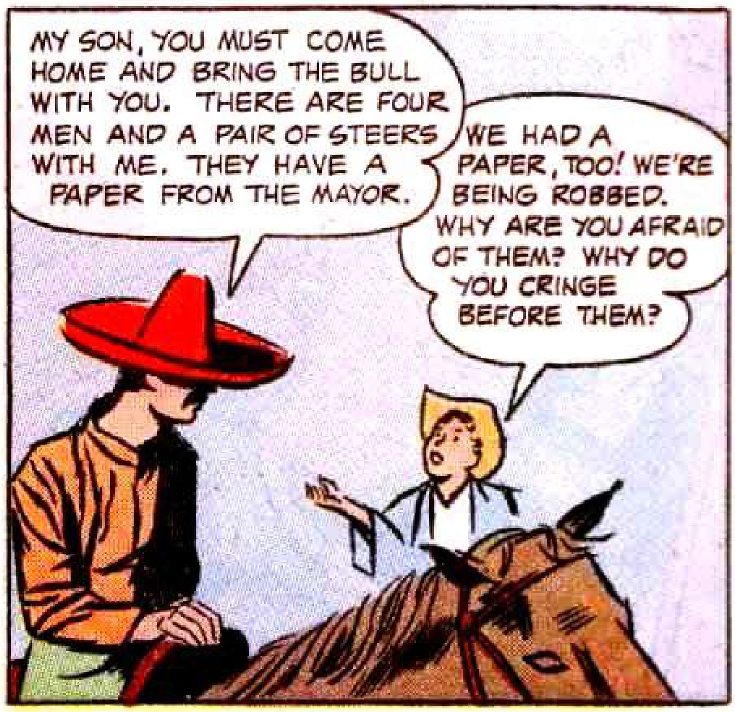
THE NEXT DAY, THE RUNAWAYS REST FROM THEIR JOURNEY FAR UP IN THE HILLS...

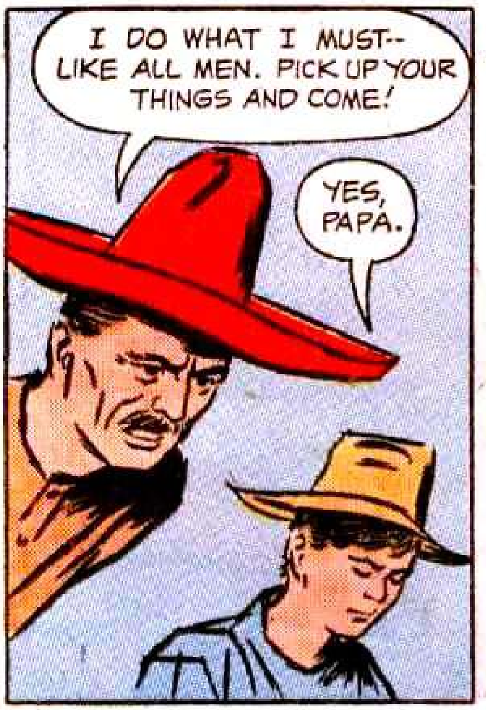



THEN SUDDENLY, GITANO SPOTS AN INTRUDER...
URRRR!
A JAGUAR! THE SLEEPING LEONARDO IS IN DEADLY PERIL. HIS FIGHTING BLOOD AROUSED, GITANO CHARGES...
...TO MEET THE GREAT CAT AS IT LEAPS FOR ITS PREY...
GITANO!! BE CAREFUL!
OH, MY GITANO-- HOW CAN I THANK YOU? YOU HAVE SAVED MY LIFE!
SNORTTT!

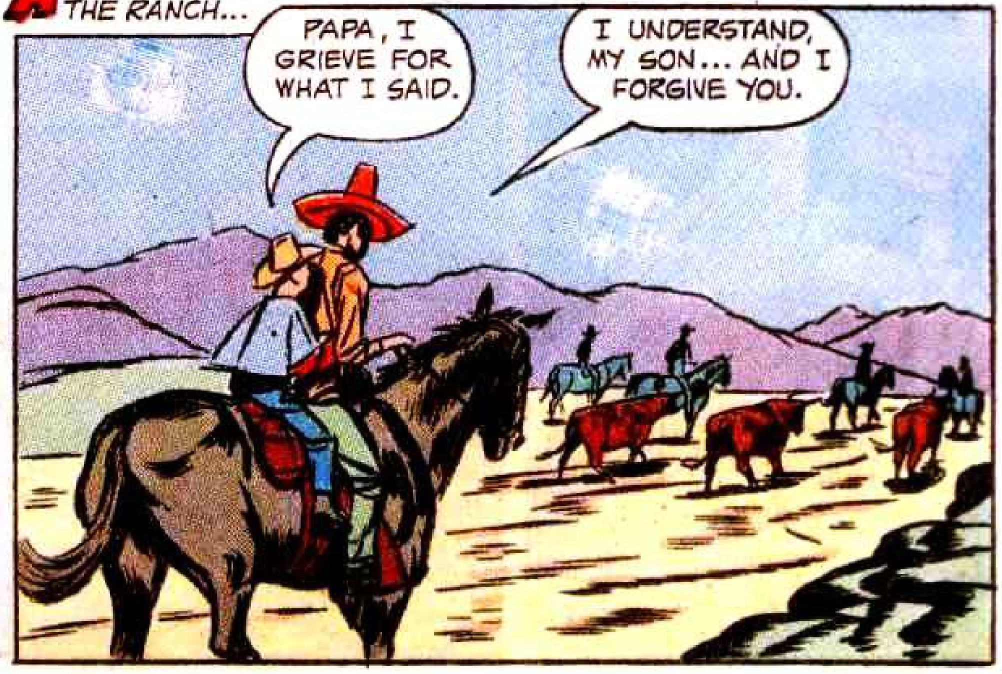
BUT LATE THAT DAY, THE FUGITIVES ARE DISCOVERED...


NO, GITANO! IT IS PAPA!
BAWWUH!

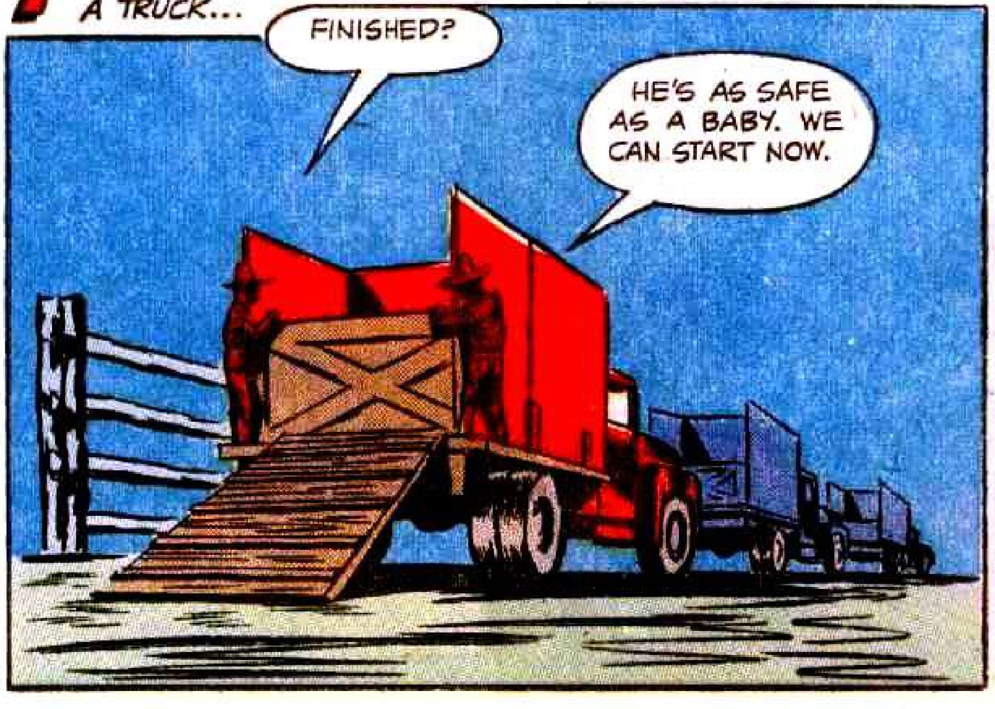

MY SON, YOU MUST COME HOME AND BRING THE BULL WITH YOU. THERE ARE FOUR MEN AND A PAIR OF STEERS WITH ME. THEY HAVE A PAPER FROM THE MAYOR.
WE HAD A PAPER, TOO! WE'RE BEING ROBBED. WHY ARE YOU AFRAID OF THEM? WHY DO YOU CRINGE BEFORE THEM?

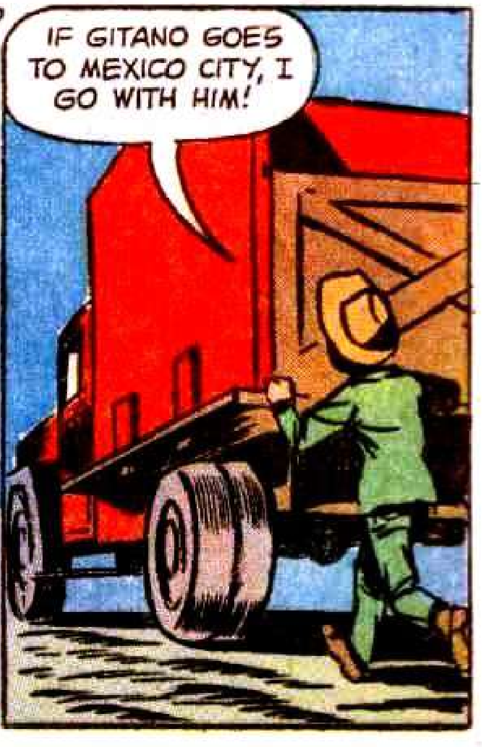

I DO WHAT I MUST-- LIKE ALL MEN. PICK UP YOUR THINGS AND COME!
YES, PAPA.

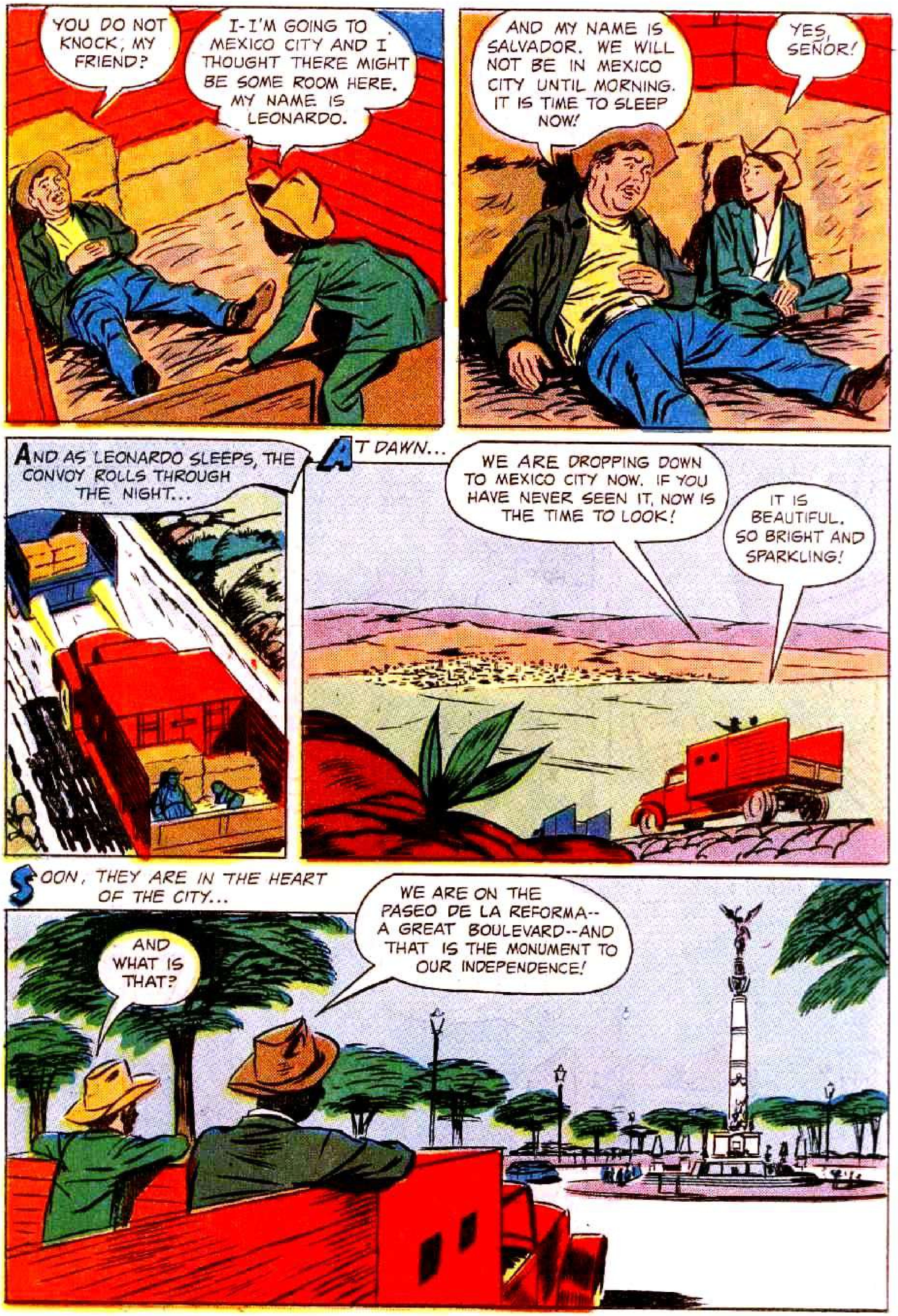
AS EVENING COMES, THE BOY AND THE BULL HEAD BACK TO THE RANCH...

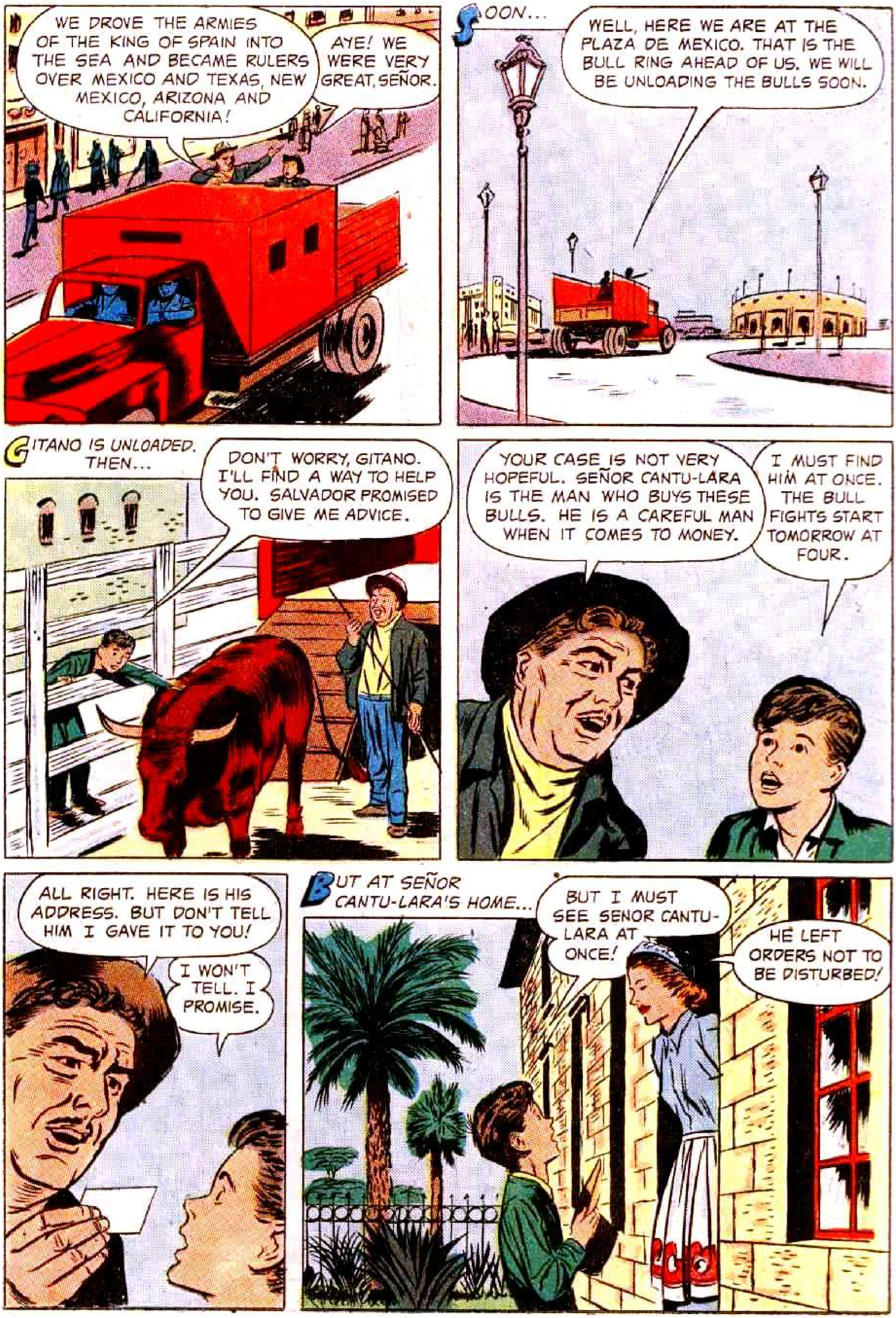

PAPA, I GRIEVE FOR WHAT I SAID.
I UNDERSTAND, MY SON... AND I FORGIVE YOU.

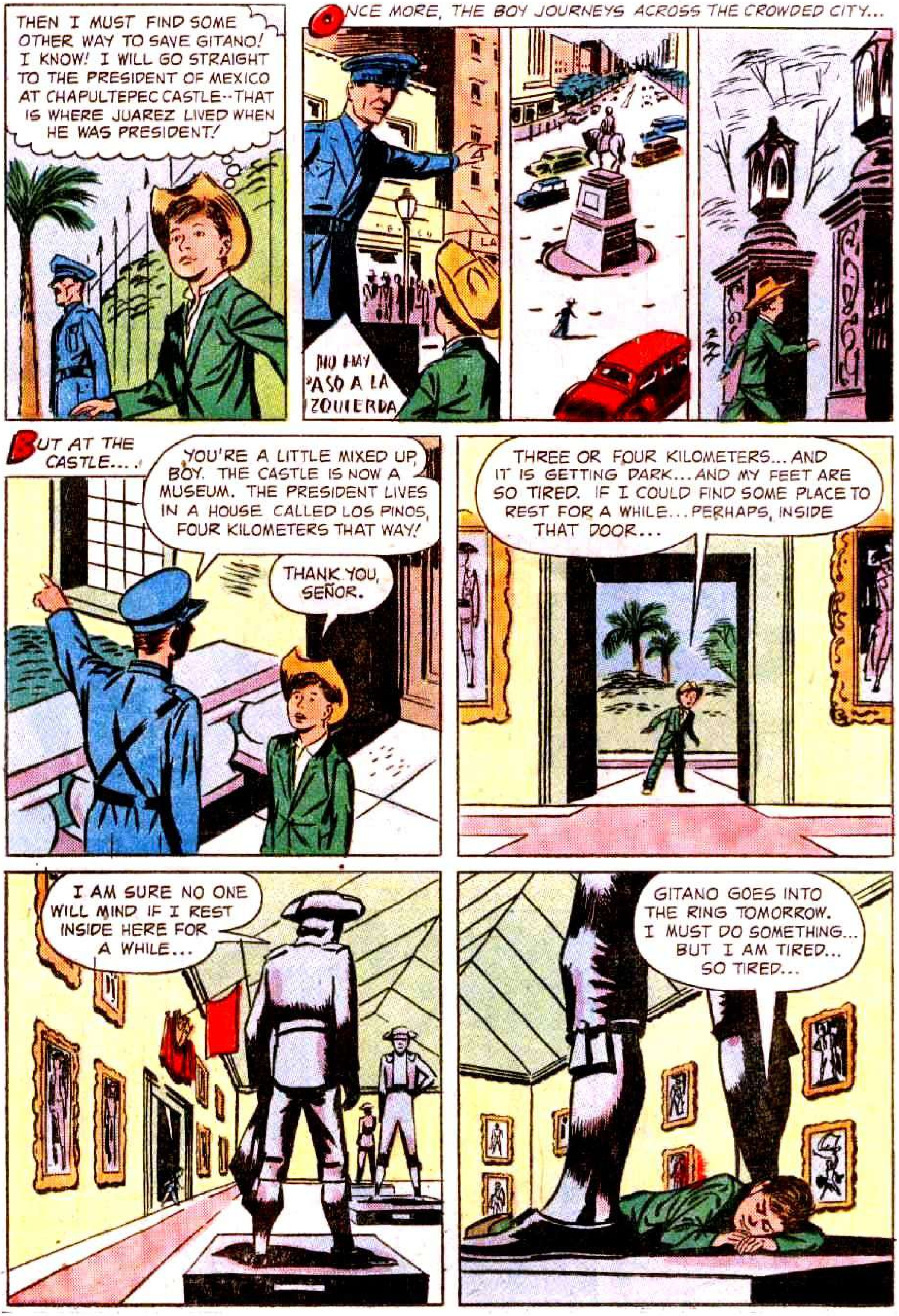
THAT NIGHT, BACK AT THE RANCH, GITANO IS LOADED ABOARD A TRUCK...

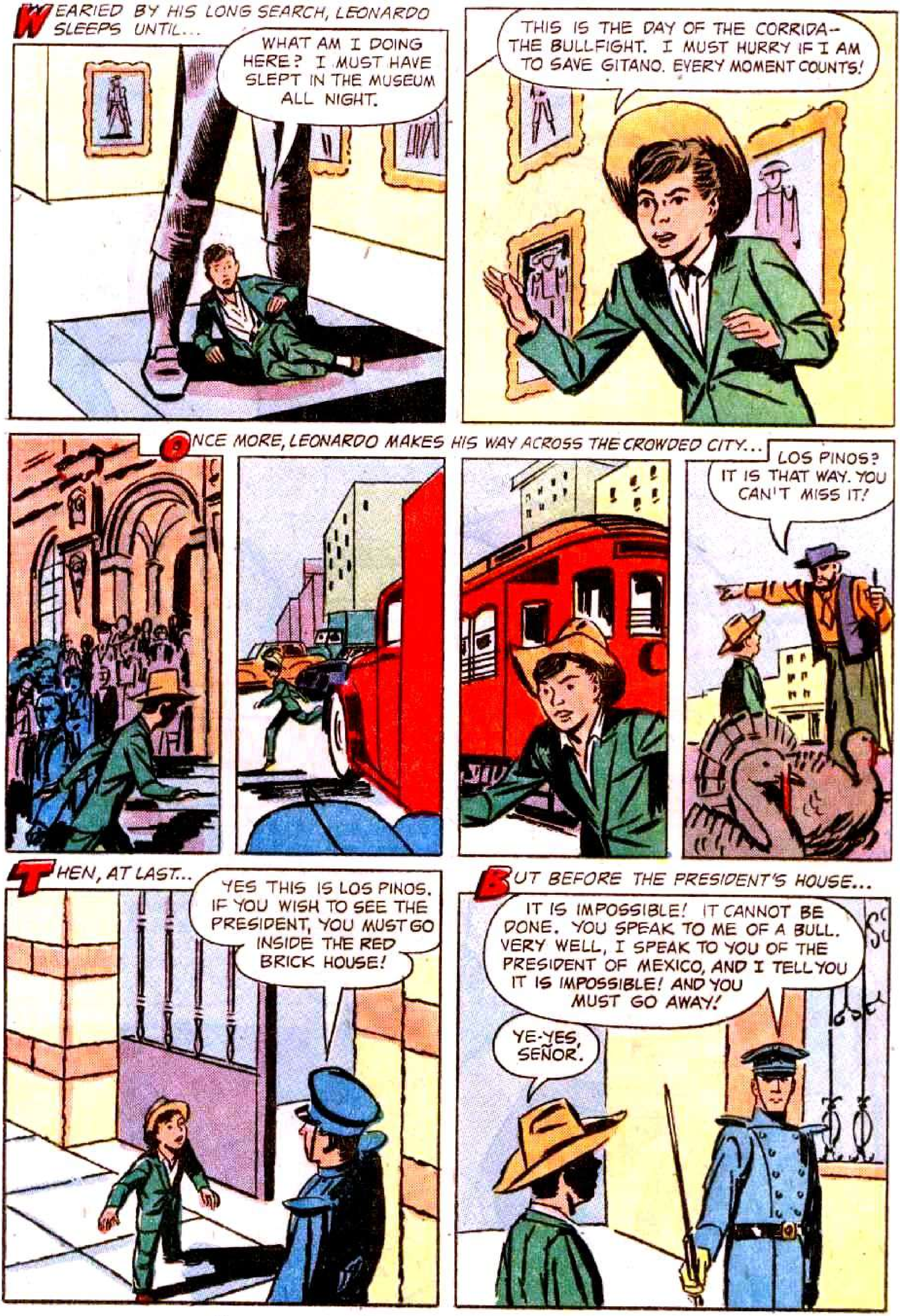

FINISHED?
HE'S AS SAFE AS A BABY. WE CAN START NOW.

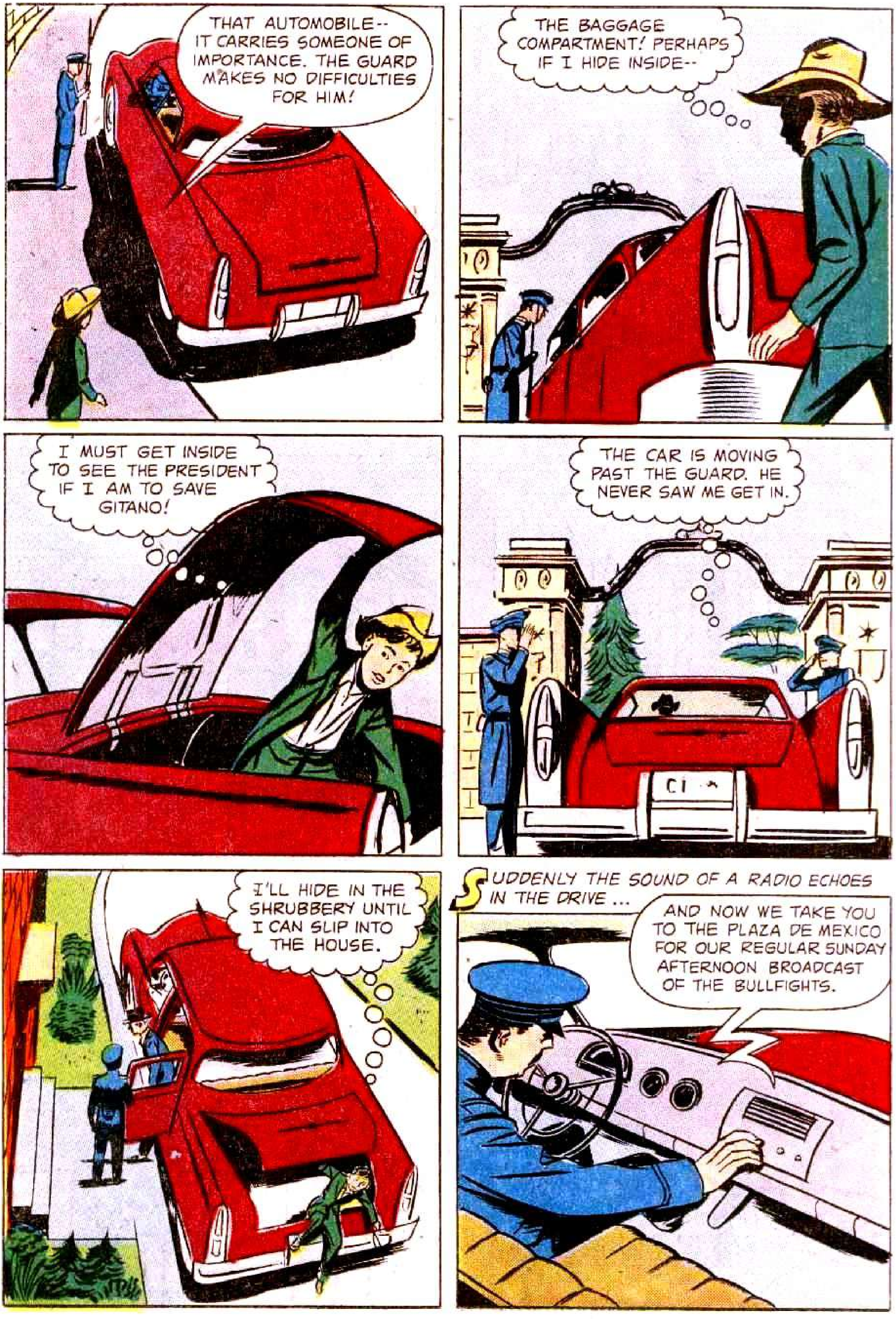

IF GITANO GOES TO MEXICO CITY, I GO WITH HIM!

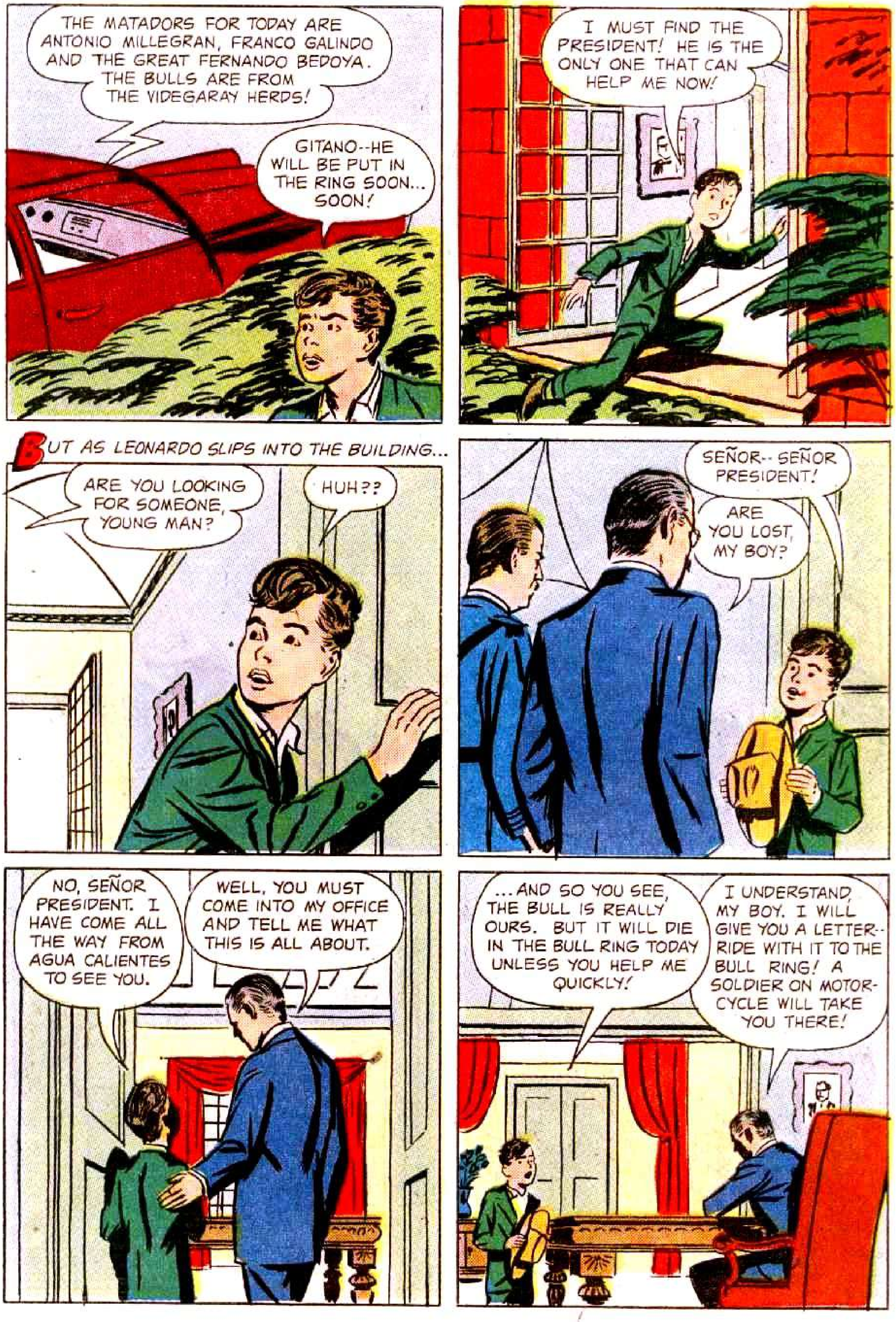

YOU DO NOT KNOCK, MY FRIEND?
I-I'M GOING TO MEXICO CITY AND I THOUGHT THERE MIGHT BE SOME ROOM HERE. MY NAME IS LEONARDO.
AND MY NAME IS SALVADOR. WE WILL NOT BE IN MEXICO CITY UNTIL MORNING. IT IS TIME TO SLEEP NOW!
YES, SEÑOR!
AND AS LEONARDO SLEEPS, THE CONVOY ROLLS THROUGH THE NIGHT...
AT DAWN...
WE ARE DROPPING DOWN TO MEXICO CITY NOW. IF YOU HAVE NEVER SEEN IT, NOW IS THE TIME TO LOOK!
IT IS BEAUTIFUL. SO BRIGHT AND SPARKLING!
SOON, THEY ARE IN THE HEART OF THE CITY...
AND WHAT IS THAT?
WE ARE ON THE PASEO DE LA REFORMA-- A GREAT BOULEVARD--AND THAT IS THE MONUMENT TO OUR INDEPENDENCE!

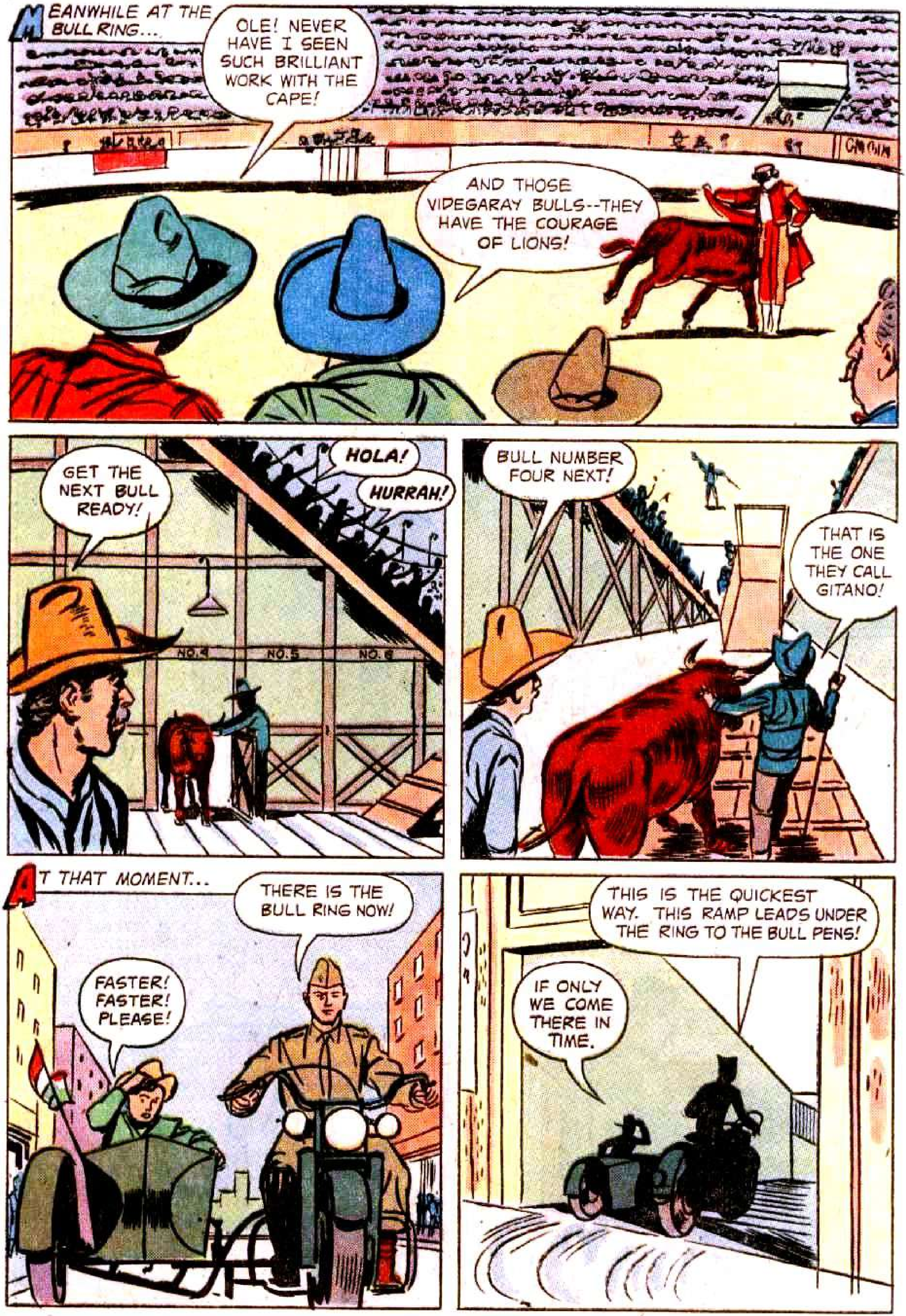

WE DROVE THE ARMIES OF THE KING OF SPAIN INTO THE SEA AND BECAME RULERS OVER MEXICO AND TEXAS, NEW MEXICO, ARIZONA AND CALIFORNIA!
AYE! WE WERE VERY GREAT, SEÑOR.
SOON...
WELL, HERE WE ARE AT THE PLAZA DE MEXICO. THAT IS THE BULL RING AHEAD OF US. WE WILL BE UNLOADING THE BULLS SOON.
GITANO IS UNLOADED. THEN...
DON'T WORRY, GITANO. I'LL FIND A WAY TO HELP YOU. SALVADOR PROMISED TO GIVE ME ADVICE.
YOUR CASE IS NOT VERY HOPEFUL. SEÑOR CANTU-LARA IS THE MAN WHO BUYS THESE BULLS. HE IS A CAREFUL MAN WHEN IT COMES TO MONEY.
I MUST FIND HIM AT ONCE. THE BULL FIGHTS START TOMORROW AT FOUR.
ALL RIGHT. HERE IS HIS ADDRESS. BUT DON'T TELL HIM I GAVE IT TO YOU!
I WON'T TELL. I PROMISE.
BUT AT SEÑOR CANTU-LARA'S HOME...
BUT I MUST SEE SENOR CANTU-LARA AT ONCE!
HE LEFT ORDERS NOT TO BE DISTURBED!

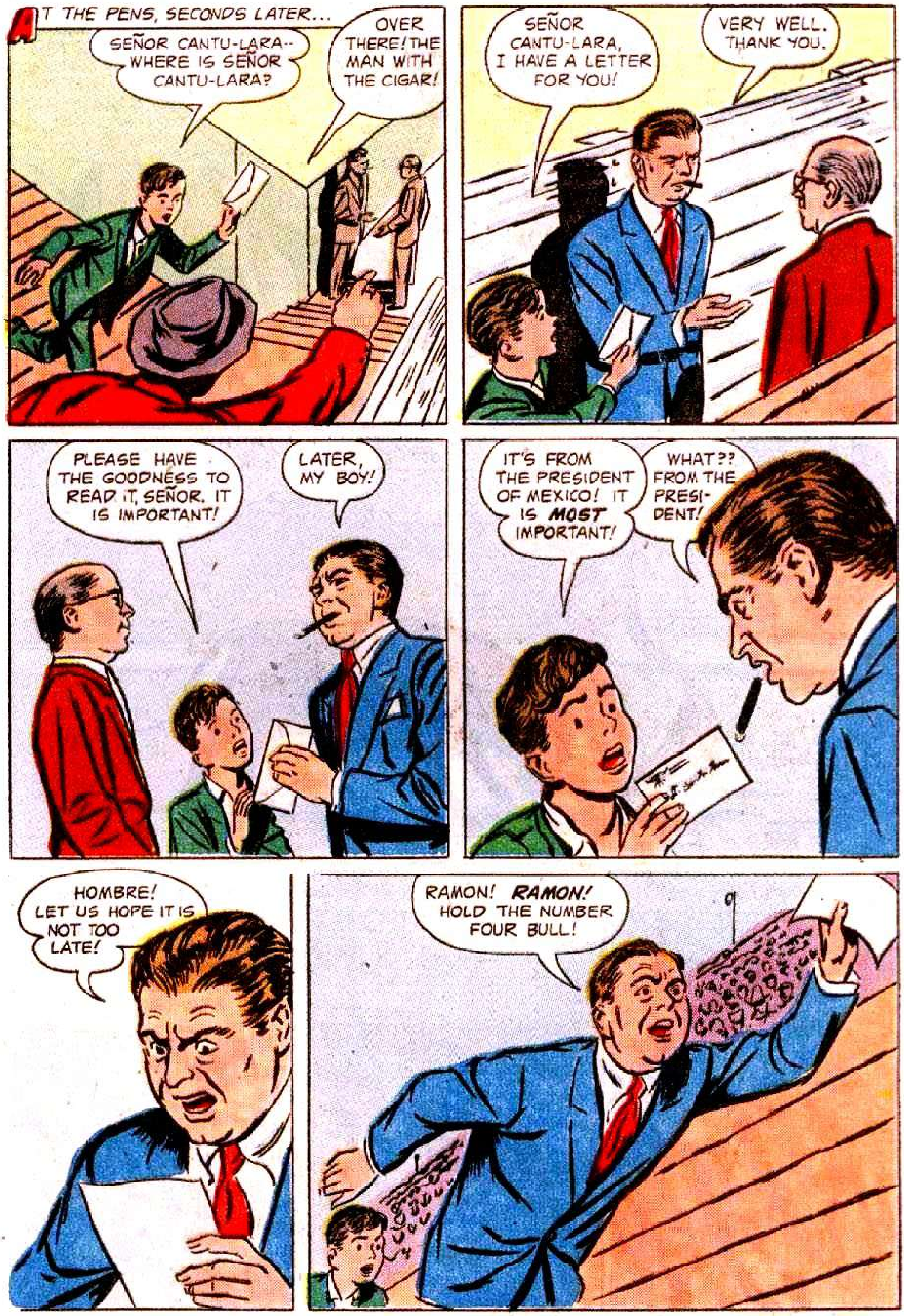

THEN I MUST FIND SOME OTHER WAY TO SAVE GITANO! I KNOW! I WILL GO STRAIGHT TO THE PRESIDENT OF MEXICO AT CHAPULTEPEC CASTLE--THAT IS WHERE JUAREZ LIVED WHEN HE WAS PRESIDENT!
ONCE MORE, THE BOY JOURNEYS ACROSS THE CROWDED CITY...
NO HAY PASO A LA IZQUIERDA
BUT AT THE CASTLE....
YOU'RE A LITTLE MIXED UP, BOY. THE CASTLE IS NOW A MUSEUM. THE PRESIDENT LIVES IN A HOUSE CALLED LOS PINOS, FOUR KILOMETERS THAT WAY!
THANK YOU, SEÑOR.
THREE OR FOUR KILOMETERS... AND IT IS GETTING DARK... AND MY FEET ARE SO TIRED. IF I COULD FIND SOME PLACE TO REST FOR A WHILE... PERHAPS, INSIDE THAT DOOR...
I AM SURE NO ONE WILL MIND IF I REST INSIDE HERE FOR A WHILE...
GITANO GOES INTO THE RING TOMORROW. I MUST DO SOMETHING... BUT I AM TIRED... SO TIRED...

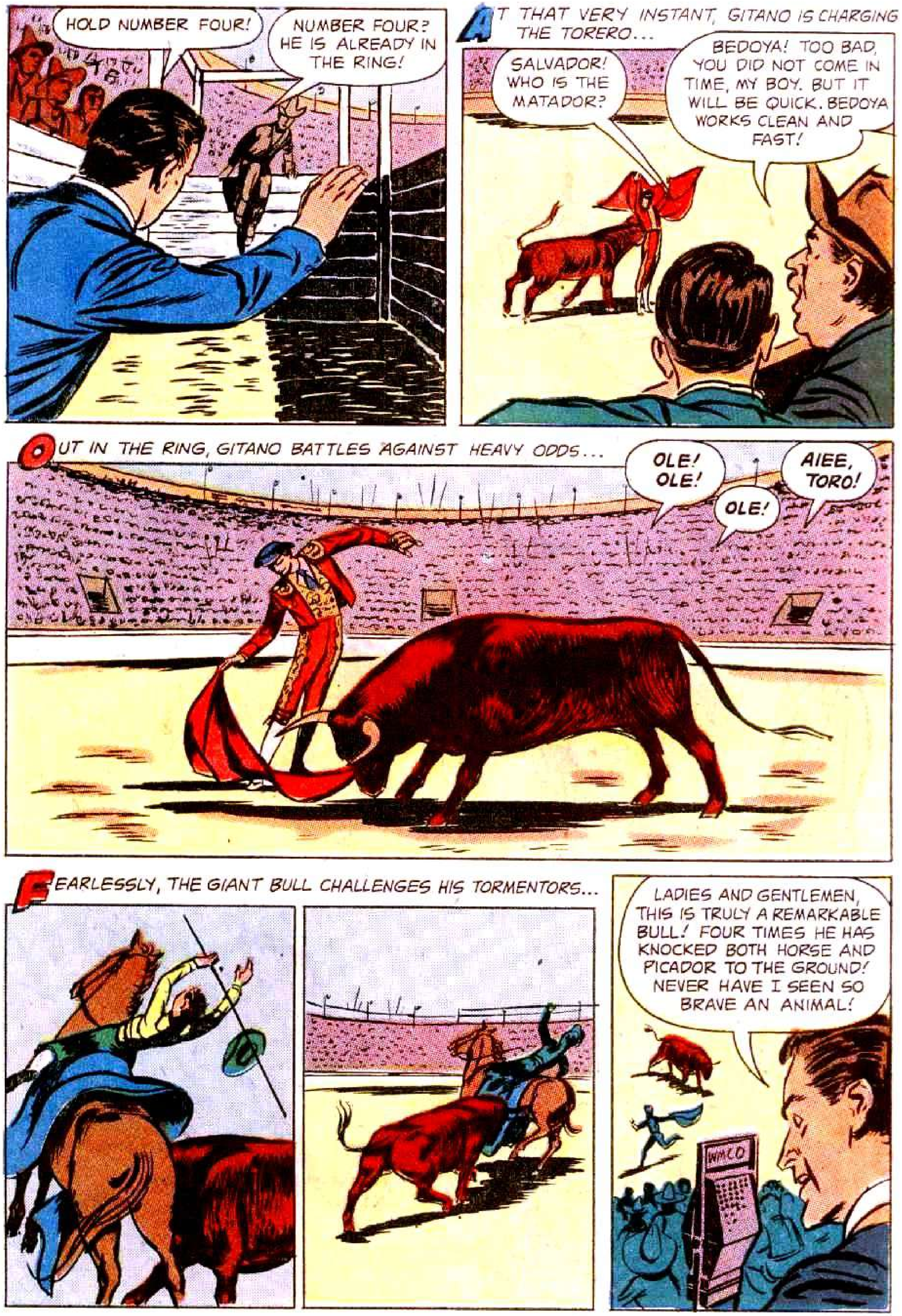

WEARIED BY HIS LONG SEARCH, LEONARDO SLEEPS UNTIL...
WHAT AM I DOING HERE? I MUST HAVE SLEPT IN THE MUSEUM ALL NIGHT.
THIS IS THE DAY OF THE CORRIDA-- THE BULLFIGHT. I MUST HURRY IF I AM TO SAVE GITANO. EVERY MOMENT COUNTS!
ONCE MORE, LEONARDO MAKES HIS WAY ACROSS THE CROWDED CITY...
LOS PINOS? IT IS THAT WAY. YOU CAN'T MISS IT!
THEN, AT LAST...
YES THIS IS LOS PINOS. IF YOU WISH TO SEE THE PRESIDENT, YOU MUST GO INSIDE THE RED BRICK HOUSE!
BUT BEFORE THE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE...
IT IS IMPOSSIBLE! IT CANNOT BE DONE. YOU SPEAK TO ME OF A BULL. VERY WELL, I SPEAK TO YOU OF THE PRESIDENT OF MEXICO, AND I TELL YOU IT IS IMPOSSIBLE! AND YOU MUST GO AWAY!
YE-YES, SEÑOR.

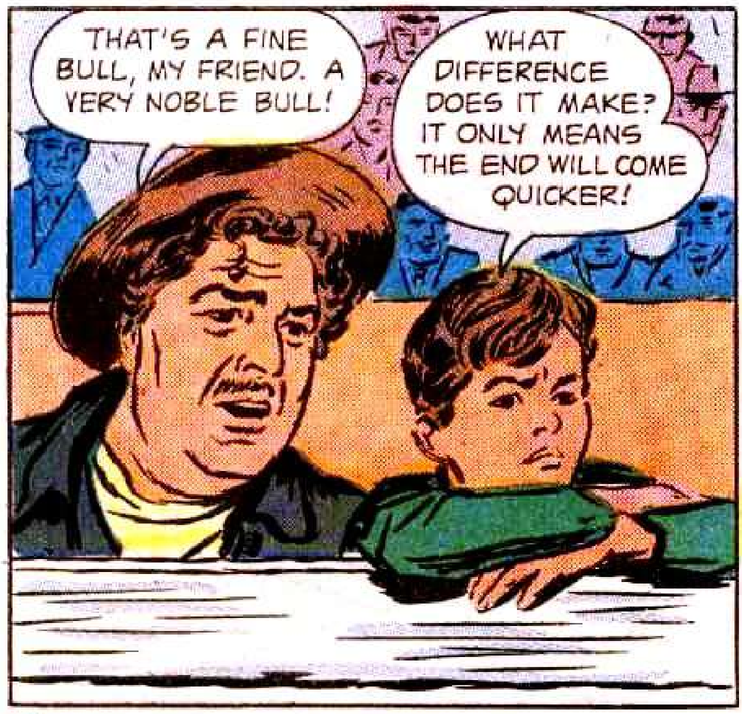

THAT AUTOMOBILE-- IT CARRIES SOMEONE OF IMPORTANCE. THE GUARD MAKES NO DIFFICULTIES FOR HIM!
THE BAGGAGE COMPARTMENT! PERHAPS IF I HIDE INSIDE--
I MUST GET INSIDE TO SEE THE PRESIDENT IF I AM TO SAVE GITANO!
THE CAR IS MOVING PAST THE GUARD. HE NEVER SAW ME GET IN.
CI
I'LL HIDE IN THE SHRUBBERY UNTIL I CAN SLIP INTO THE HOUSE.
SUDDENLY THE SOUND OF A RADIO ECHOES IN THE DRIVE ...
AND NOW WE TAKE YOU TO THE PLAZA DE MEXICO FOR OUR REGULAR SUNDAY AFTERNOON BROADCAST OF THE BULLFIGHTS.

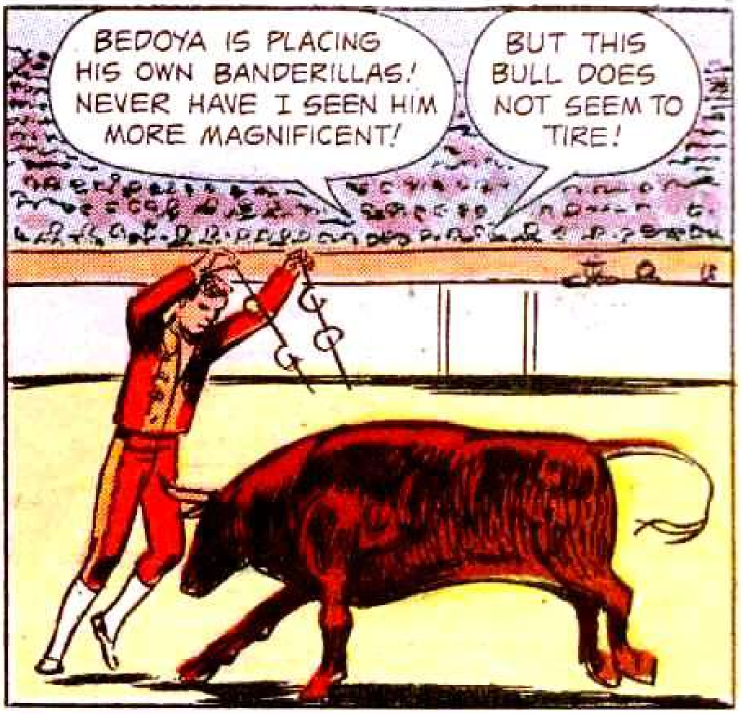

THE MATADORS FOR TODAY ARE ANTONIO MILLEGRAN, FRANCO GALINDO AND THE GREAT FERNANDO BEDOYA. THE BULLS ARE FROM THE VIDEGARAY HERDS!
GITANO--HE WILL BE PUT IN THE RING SOON... SOON!
I MUST FIND THE PRESIDENT! HE IS THE ONLY ONE THAT CAN HELP ME NOW!
BUT AS LEONARDO SLIPS INTO THE BUILDING...
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SOMEONE, YOUNG MAN?
HUH??
SEÑOR-- SEÑOR PRESIDENT!
ARE YOU LOST, MY BOY?
NO, SEÑOR PRESIDENT. I HAVE COME ALL THE WAY FROM AGUA CALIENTES TO SEE YOU.
WELL, YOU MUST COME INTO MY OFFICE AND TELL ME WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT.
...AND SO YOU SEE, THE BULL IS REALLY OURS. BUT IT WILL DIE IN THE BULL RING TODAY UNLESS YOU HELP ME QUICKLY!
I UNDERSTAND, MY BOY. I WILL GIVE YOU A LETTER-- RIDE WITH IT TO THE BULL RING! A SOLDIER ON MOTOR-CYCLE WILL TAKE YOU THERE!

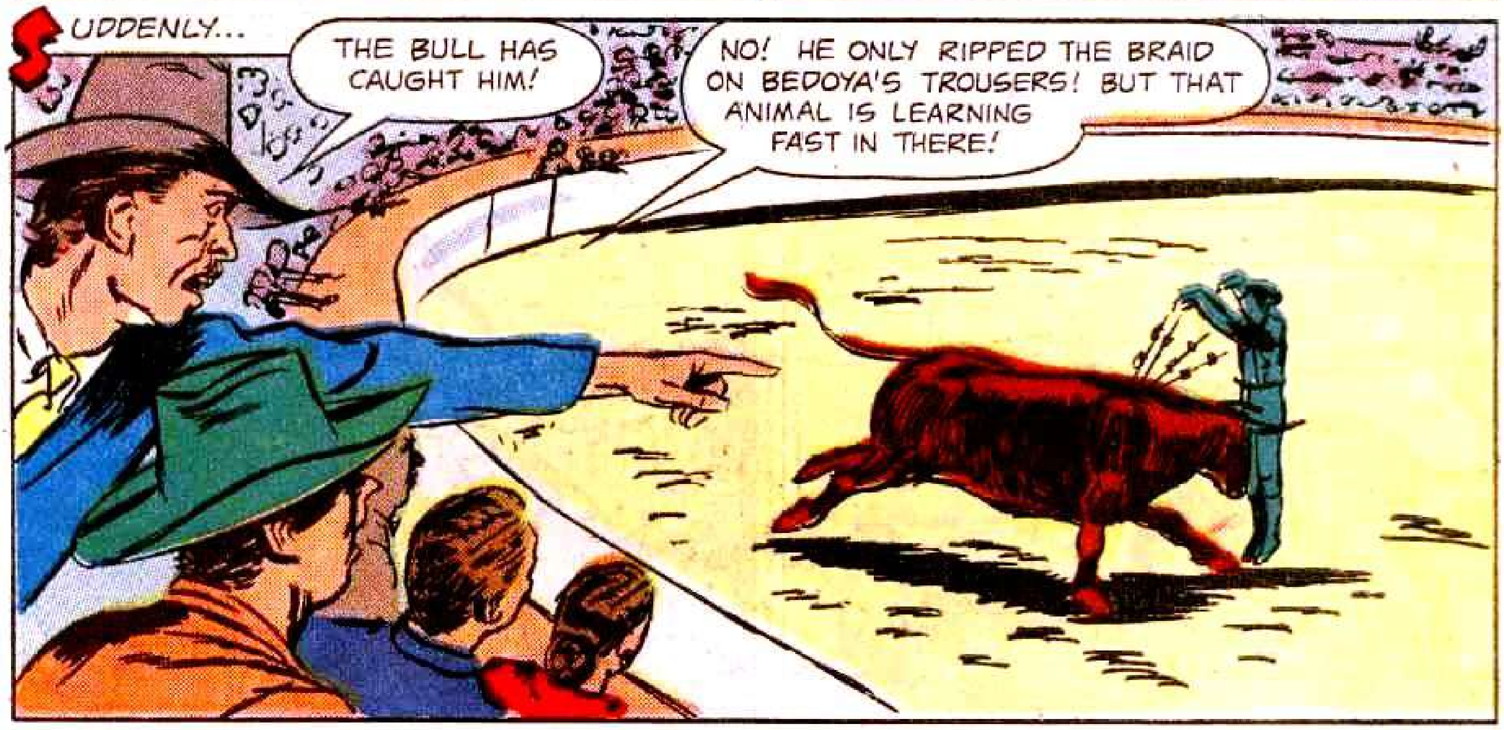

MEANWHILE AT THE BULL RING...
OLE! NEVER HAVE I SEEN SUCH BRILLIANT WORK WITH THE CAPE!
AND THOSE VIDEGARAY BULLS--THEY HAVE THE COURAGE OF LIONS!
GET THE NEXT BULL READY!
HOLA!
HURRAH!
NO. 4
NO. 5
NO. 6
BULL NUMBER FOUR NEXT!
THAT IS THE ONE THEY CALL GITANO!
AT THAT MOMENT...
THERE IS THE BULL RING NOW!
FASTER! FASTER! PLEASE!
THIS IS THE QUICKEST WAY. THIS RAMP LEADS UNDER THE RING TO THE BULL PENS!
IF ONLY WE COME THERE IN TIME.

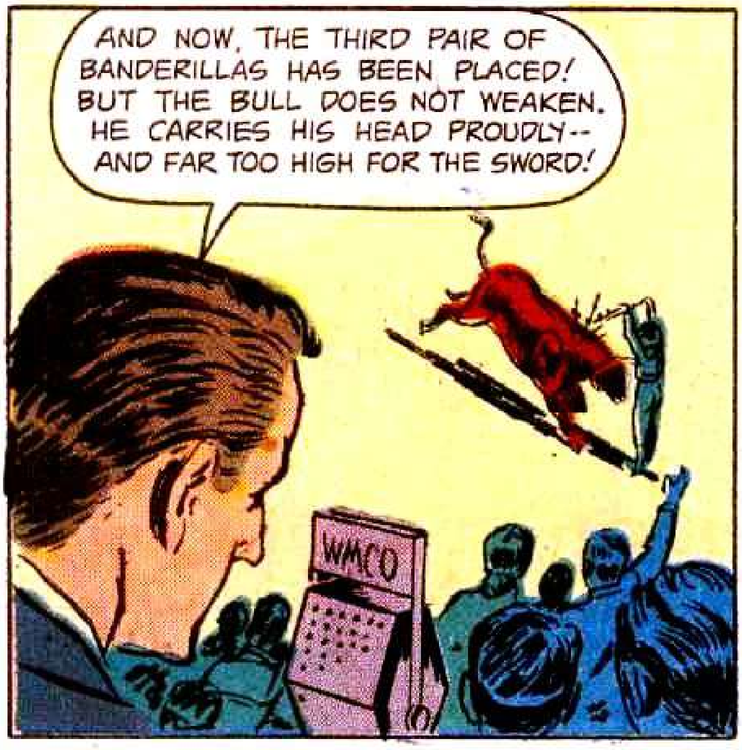

AT THE PENS, SECONDS LATER...
SEÑOR CANTU-LARA-- WHERE IS SEÑOR CANTU-LARA?
OVER THERE! THE MAN WITH THE CIGAR!
SEÑOR CANTU-LARA, I HAVE A LETTER FOR YOU!
VERY WELL. THANK YOU.
PLEASE HAVE THE GOODNESS TO READ IT, SEÑOR. IT IS IMPORTANT!
LATER, MY BOY!
IT'S FROM THE PRESIDENT OF MEXICO! IT IS **MOST** IMPORTANT!
WHAT?? FROM THE PRESIDENT!
HOMBRE! LET US HOPE IT IS NOT TOO LATE!
RAMON! ***RAMON!*** HOLD THE NUMBER FOUR BULL!

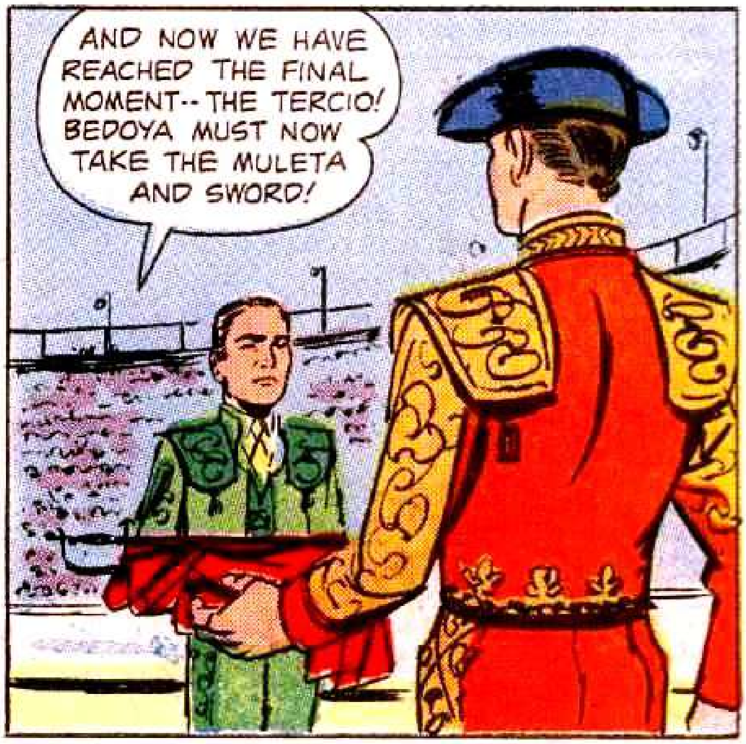

HOLD NUMBER FOUR!
NUMBER FOUR? HE IS ALREADY IN THE RING!
AT THAT VERY INSTANT, GITANO IS CHARGING THE TORERO...
SALVADOR! WHO IS THE MATADOR?
BEDOYA! TOO BAD, YOU DID NOT COME IN TIME, MY BOY. BUT IT WILL BE QUICK. BEDOYA WORKS CLEAN AND FAST!
OUT IN THE RING, GITANO BATTLES AGAINST HEAVY ODDS...
OLE! OLE!
OLE!
AIEE, TORO!
FEARLESSLY, THE GIANT BULL CHALLENGES HIS TORMENTORS...
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THIS IS TRULY A REMARKABLE BULL! FOUR TIMES HE HAS KNOCKED BOTH HORSE AND PICADOR TO THE GROUND! NEVER HAVE I SEEN SO BRAVE AN ANIMAL!
WMCD


THAT'S A FINE BULL, MY FRIEND. A VERY NOBLE BULL!
WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE? IT ONLY MEANS THE END WILL COME QUICKER!

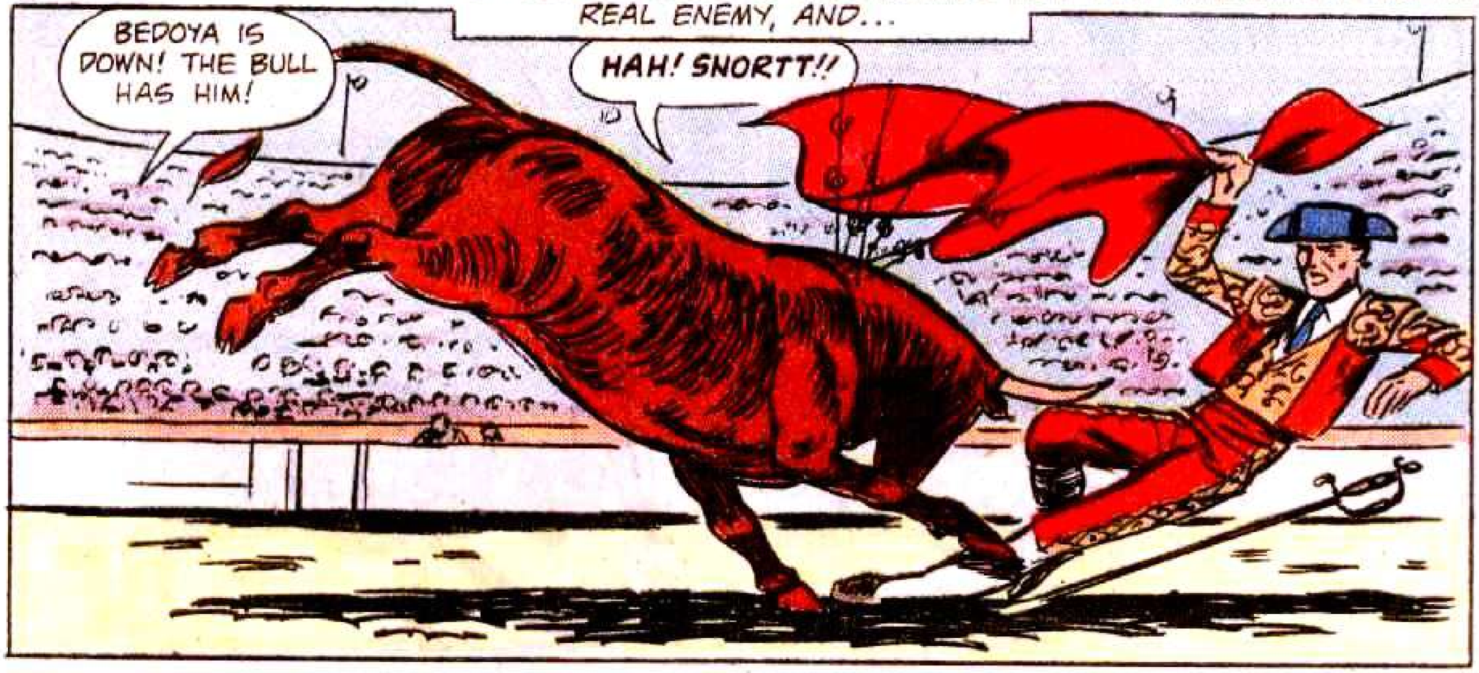

BEDOYA IS PLACING HIS OWN BANDERILLAS! NEVER HAVE I SEEN HIM MORE MAGNIFICENT!
BUT THIS BULL DOES NOT SEEM TO TIRE!

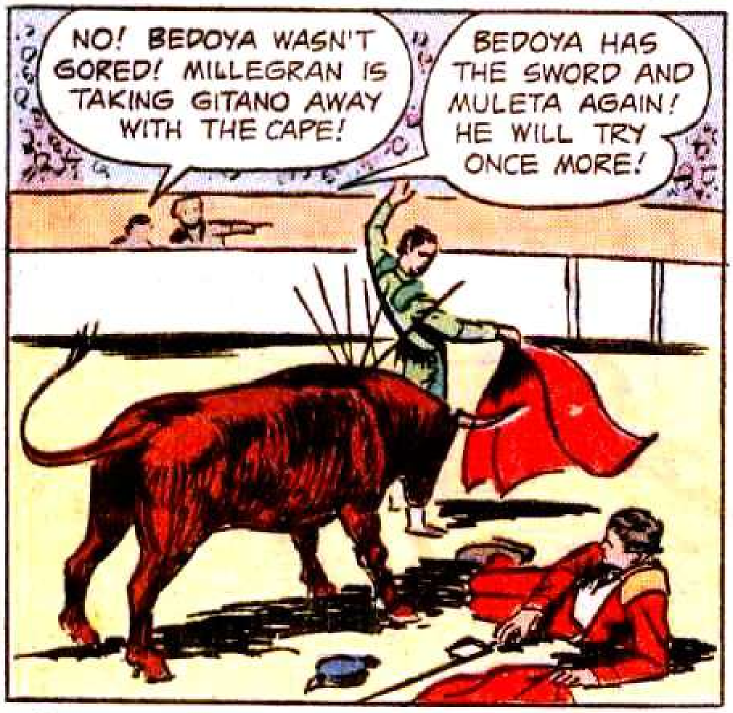

SUDDENLY...
THE BULL HAS CAUGHT HIM!
NO! HE ONLY RIPPED THE BRAID ON BEDOYA'S TROUSERS! BUT THAT ANIMAL IS LEARNING FAST IN THERE!

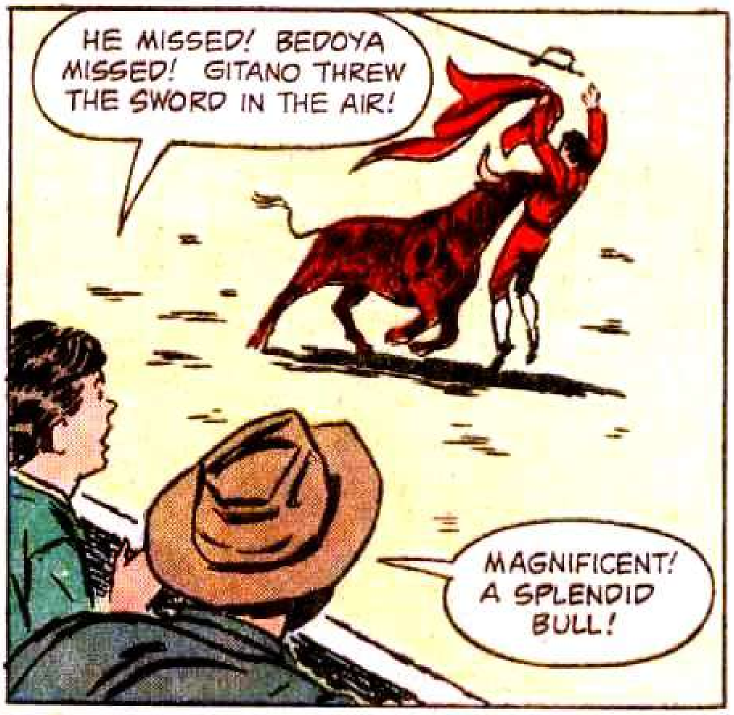

AND NOW, THE THIRD PAIR OF BANDERILLAS HAS BEEN PLACED! BUT THE BULL DOES NOT WEAKEN. HE CARRIES HIS HEAD PROUDLY-- AND FAR TOO HIGH FOR THE SWORD!
WMCO


AND NOW WE HAVE REACHED THE FINAL MOMENT--THE TERCIO! BEDOYA MUST NOW TAKE THE MULETA AND SWORD!

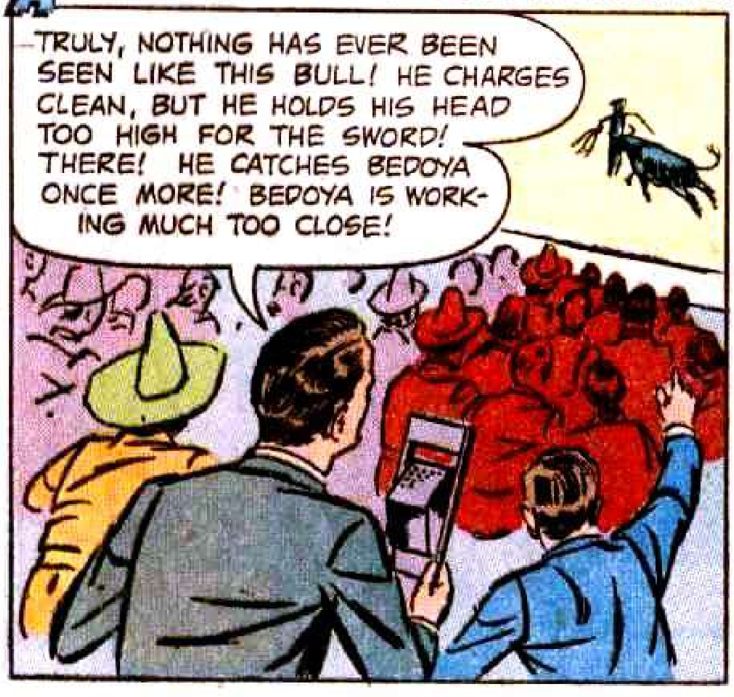
BUT GITANO HAS LEARNED HIS LESSON WELL. HE UNDERSTANDS NOW THAT THE CAPE IS NOT HIS REAL ENEMY, AND...


BEDOYA IS DOWN! THE BULL HAS HIM!
HAH! SNORTT!!

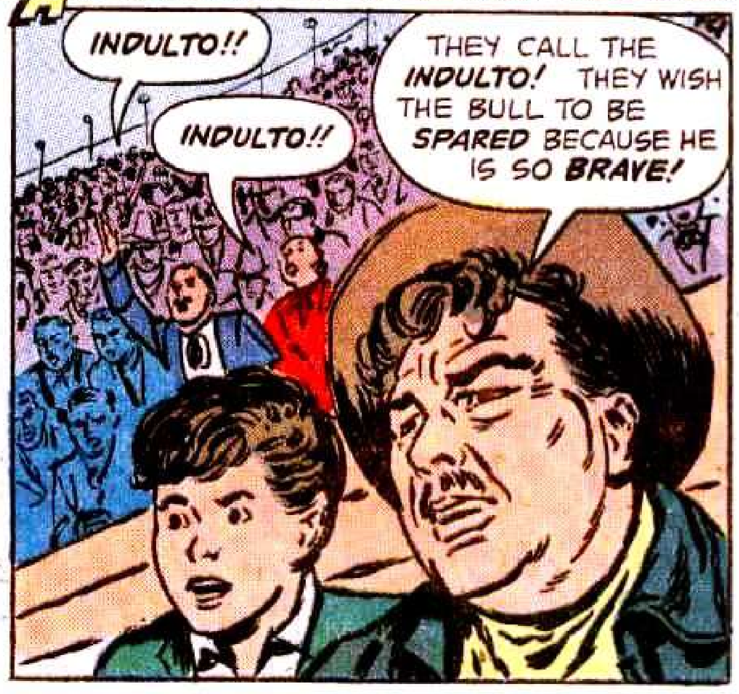

NO! BEDOYA WASN'T GORED! MILLEGRAN IS TAKING GITANO AWAY WITH THE CAPE!
BEDOYA HAS THE SWORD AND MULETA AGAIN! HE WILL TRY ONCE MORE!

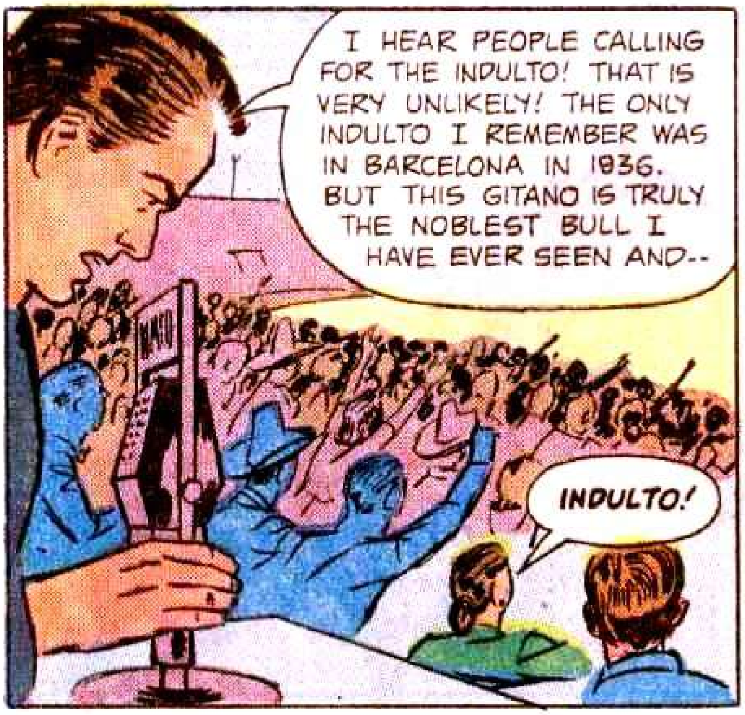

HE MISSED! BEDOYA MISSED! GITANO THREW THE SWORD IN THE AIR!
MAGNIFICENT! A SPLENDID BULL!

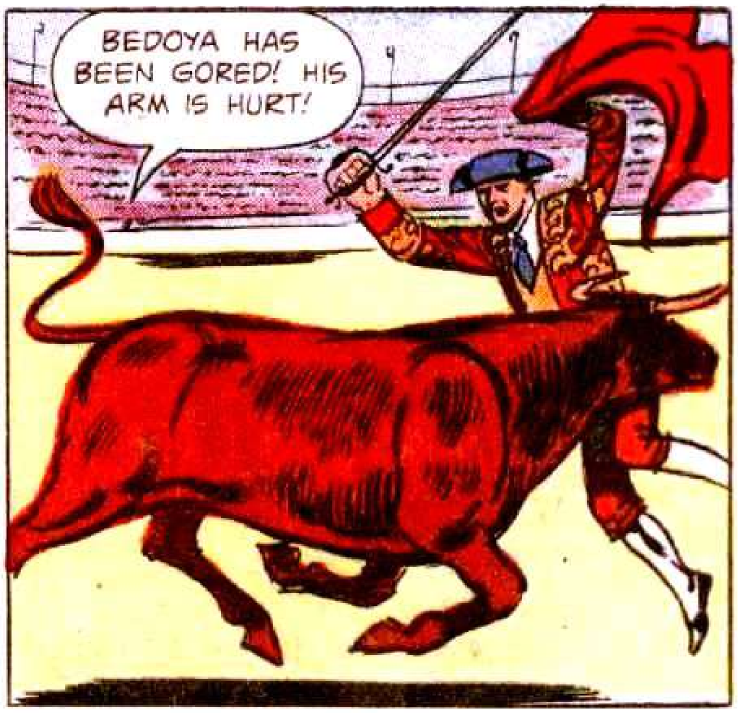
AS THE STRUGGLE SWEEPS ACROSS THE BULL RING...

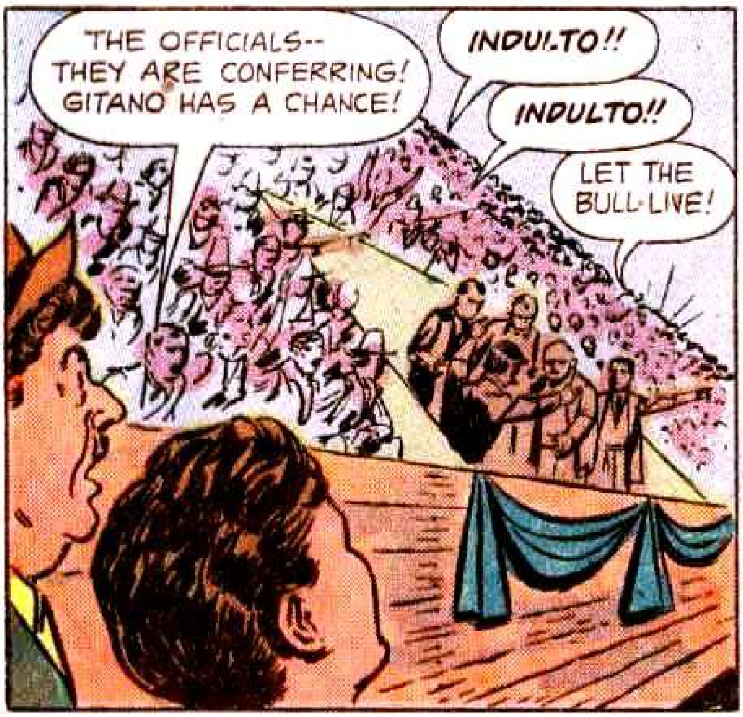

TRULY, NOTHING HAS EVER BEEN SEEN LIKE THIS BULL! HE CHARGES CLEAN, BUT HE HOLDS HIS HEAD TOO HIGH FOR THE SWORD! THERE! HE CATCHES BEDOYA ONCE MORE! BEDOYA IS WORKING MUCH TOO CLOSE!

AND NOW A NEW CRY ECHOES FROM THE CROWD...

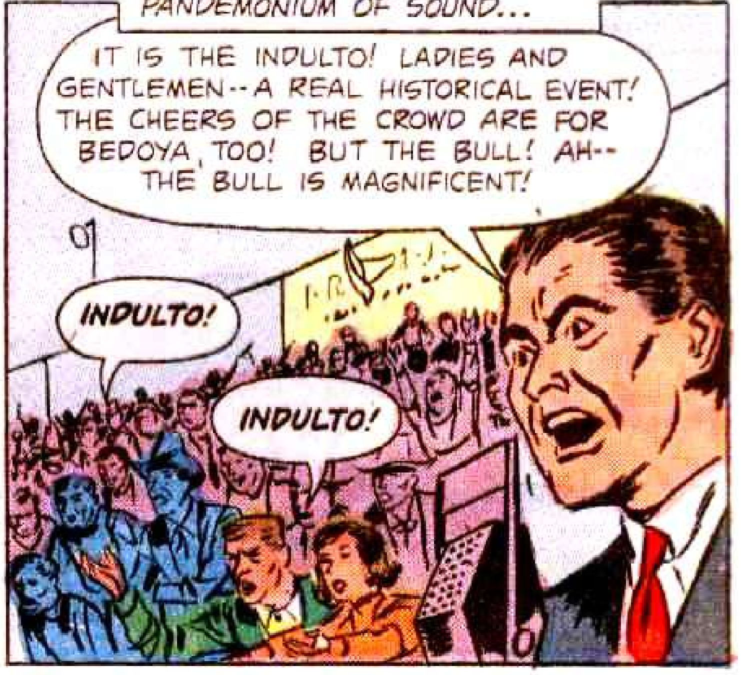

INDULTO!!
INDULTO!!
THEY CALL THE INDULTO! THEY WISH THE BULL TO BE SPARED BECAUSE HE IS SO BRAVE!

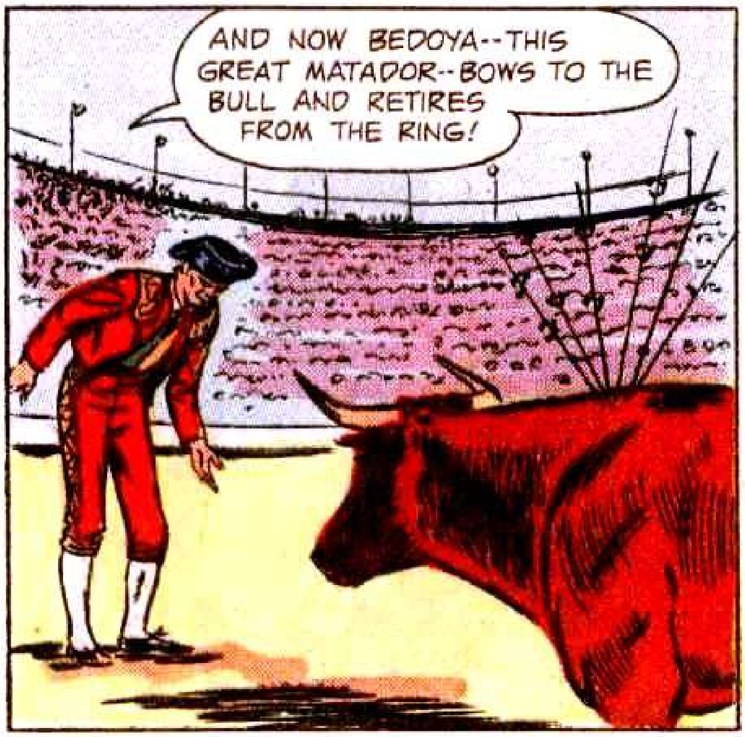

I HEAR PEOPLE CALLING FOR THE INDULTO! THAT IS VERY UNLIKELY! THE ONLY INDULTO I REMEMBER WAS IN BARCELONA IN 1836. BUT THIS GITANO IS TRULY THE NOBLEST BULL I HAVE EVER SEEN AND--
INDULTO!


BEDOYA HAS BEEN GORED! HIS ARM IS HURT!

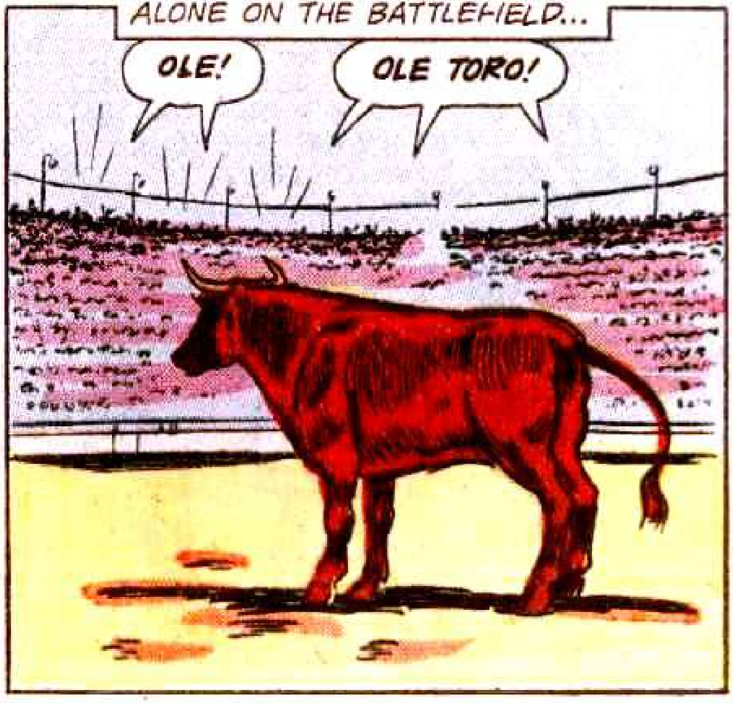

THE OFFICIALS-- THEY ARE CONFERRING! GITANO HAS A CHANCE!
INDULTO!!
INDULTO!!
LET THE BULL-LIVE!

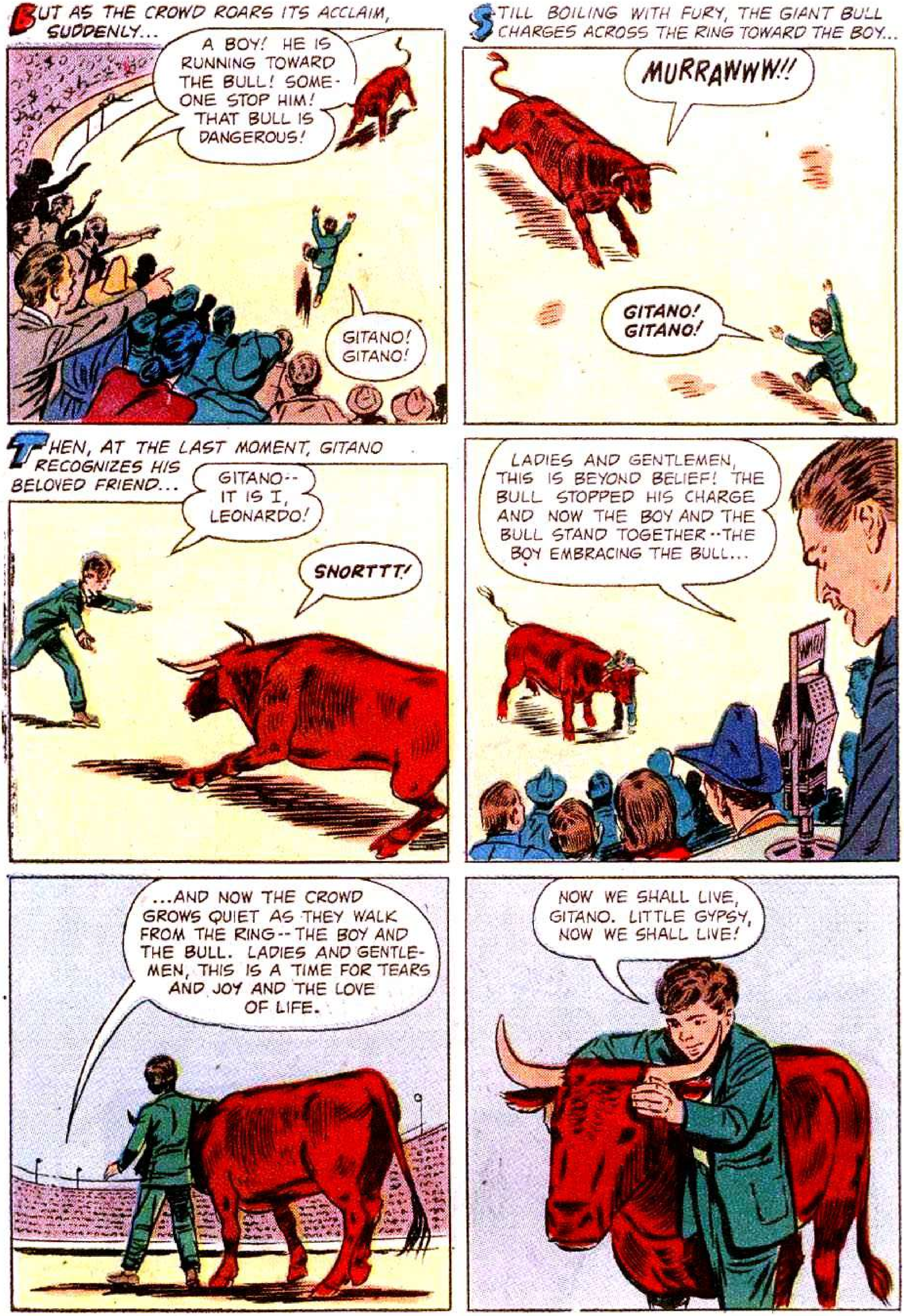
THEN SUDDENLY, THE ARENA EXPLODES IN A PANDEMONIUM OF SOUND...


IT IS THE INDULTO! LADIES AND GENTLEMEN--A REAL HISTORICAL EVENT! THE CHEERS OF THE CROWD ARE FOR BEDOYA, TOO! BUT THE BULL! AH-- THE BULL IS MAGNIFICENT!
INDULTO!
INDULTO!

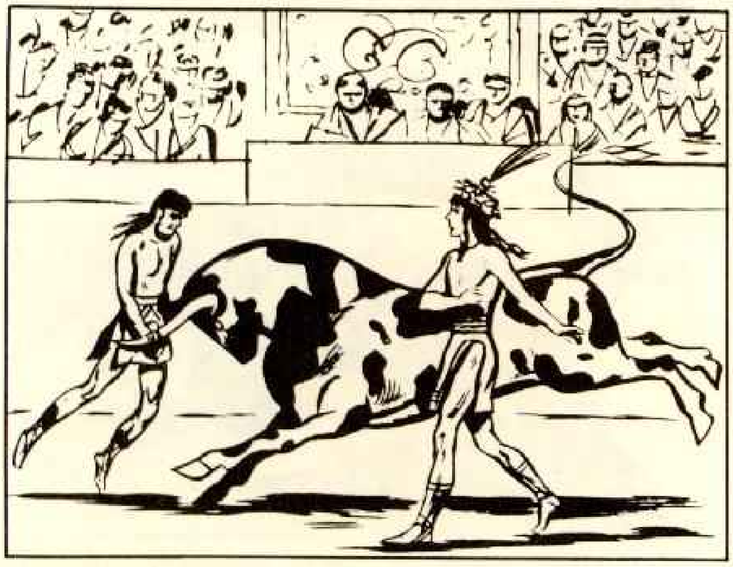

AND NOW BEDOYA--THIS GREAT MATADOR--BOWS TO THE BULL AND RETIRES FROM THE RING!

IN HIS MOMENT OF TRIUMPH, GITANO STANDS ALONE ON THE BATTLEFIELD...

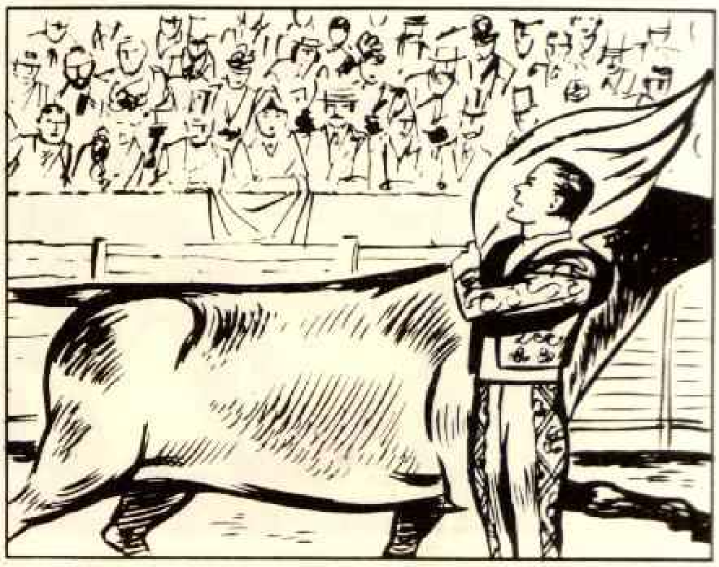

OLE!
OLE TORO!


BUT AS THE CROWD ROARS ITS ACCLAIM, SUDDENLY...
A BOY! HE IS RUNNING TOWARD THE BULL! SOMEONE STOP HIM! THAT BULL IS DANGEROUS!
GITANO! GITANO!
STILL BOILING WITH FURY, THE GIANT BULL CHARGES ACROSS THE RING TOWARD THE BOY...
MURRAWWW!!
GITANO! GITANO!
THEN, AT THE LAST MOMENT, GITANO RECOGNIZES HIS BELOVED FRIEND...
GITANO-- IT IS I, LEONARDO!
SNORTTT!
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THIS IS BEYOND BELIEF! THE BULL STOPPED HIS CHARGE AND NOW THE BOY AND THE BULL STAND TOGETHER--THE BOY EMBRACING THE BULL...
...AND NOW THE CROWD GROWS QUIET AS THEY WALK FROM THE RING--THE BOY AND THE BULL. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THIS IS A TIME FOR TEARS AND JOY AND THE LOVE OF LIFE.
NOW WE SHALL LIVE, GITANO. LITTLE GYPSY, NOW WE SHALL LIVE!

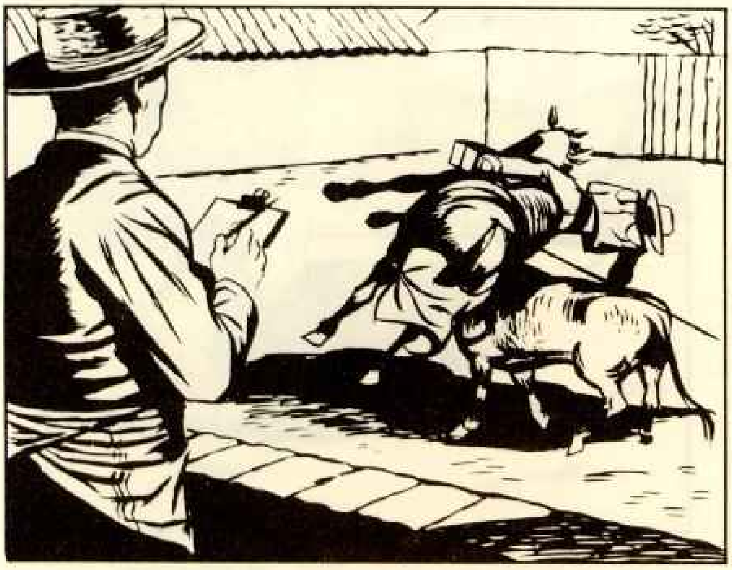
THE FIGHTING BREED



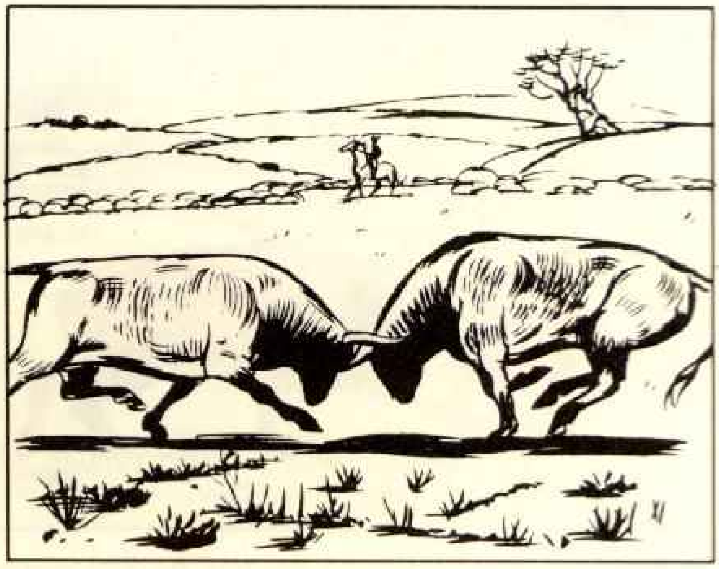
The origin of the fighting bull is lost in the mists of time. Bull fights were common in ancient Greece and Rome.



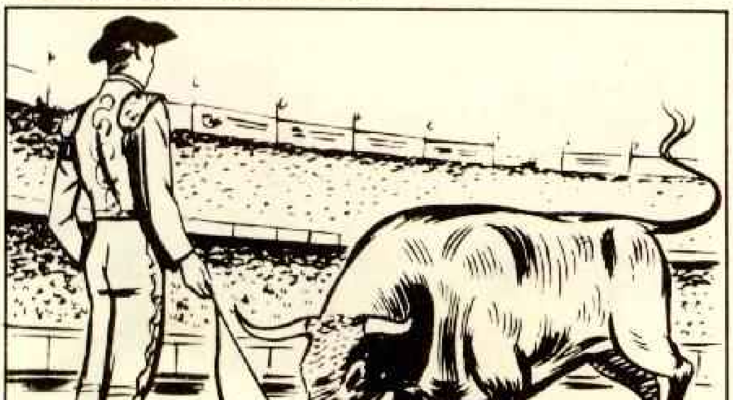
A century ago, some breeds were so immense they were called "cathedrals." Though today's fighting bull is smaller, he has the same fierce courage.



As a two-year-old, the bull must prove himself at the tienta — the testing of the bulls. Weight, shape of horns and fighting spirit all count.



With his inborn, savage cunning, the fighting bull learns quickly, so, by law, he must never see a cape again until he enters the ring at the age of four.



The full grown bull enters the Plaza de Toros a savage fighting machine—Bred for cunning, ferocity and courage.

A PLEDGE DELL COMIC TO PARENTS

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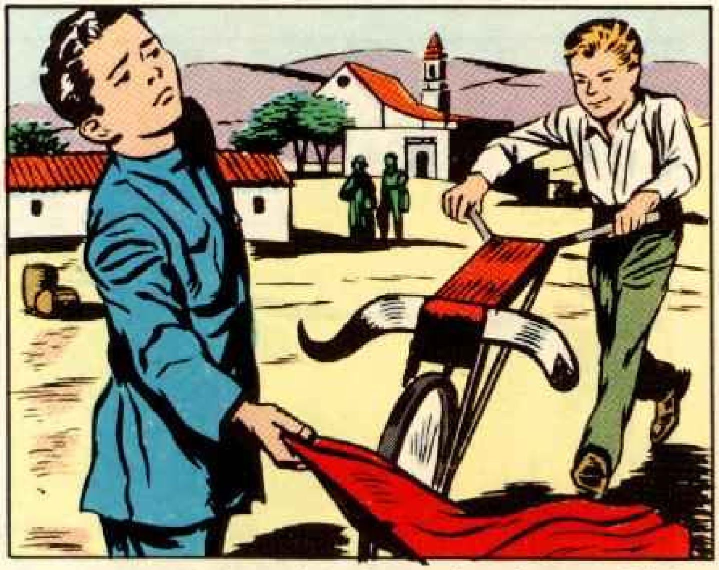
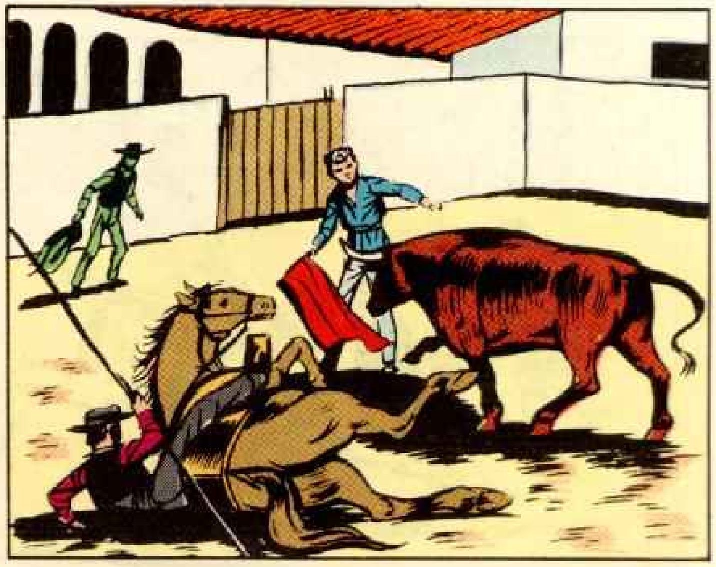
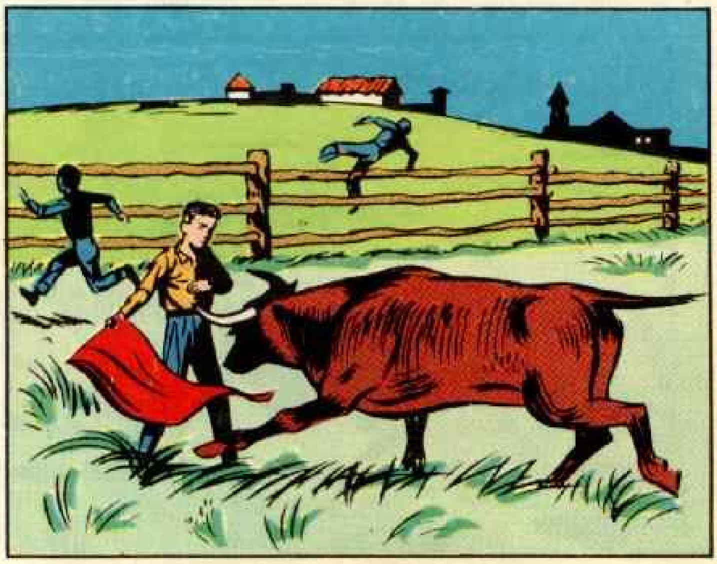
MEN WITHOUT FEAR



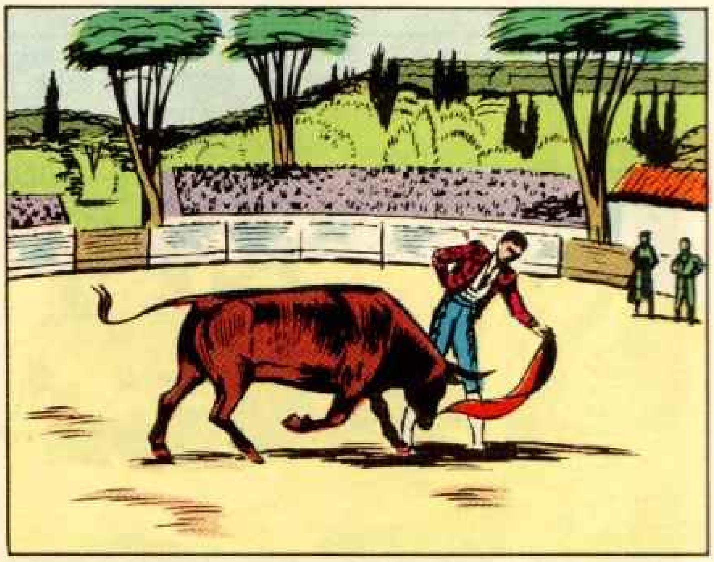
Every boy in Spain and Latin America dreams of being a bullfighter. With makeshift capes they practice the basic passes constantly.



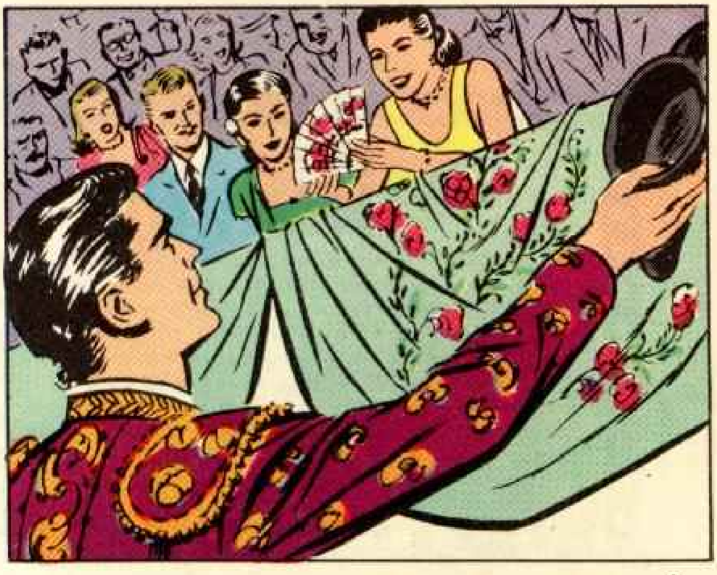
A promising youngster may be allowed to help test the two-year-olds at a local bull breeding ranch.



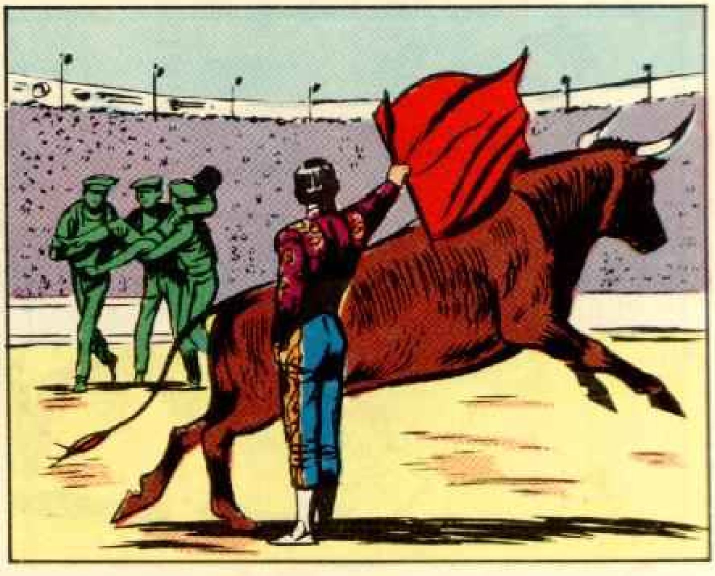
Often, aspiring toreros will slip into the bull pastures at night and practice with cows, yearlings and even seed-bulls.



If he is lucky, the persistent amateur may some day become a novillero – a novice, and fight his first bull in some small town bull ring for a meager payday.



The competition is keen. The ambitious novillero must polish his skill and prove his daring. If he survives, he becomes a full fledged torero!



The sky is the limit for the successful young matador. With skill and daring he can become rich and famous – that is, if his luck holds out.